

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXII.]

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MARRIAGE.

On 28th October, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., WALTER HERBERT HOWARD, second son of WALTER HOWARD, Esq., of Ilford, Essex, to ISABEL META, only daughter of Dr. C. T. DEWAR, of Jamaica, (W.I.).

DEATHS.

On 10th October, at Hankow, MARY AGNES, the beloved wife of RICHARD MALONE, of H.B.M.'s Consulate-General.

On 15th October, at Shanghai, JULIA MARIA BASTO, the beloved wife of ANTONIO MANUEL D'ARANJO E SILVA, aged 55 years.

On 16th October, at Shanghai, on board a steam launch, JAMES E. HODGSON, 3rd engineer, steamer *Kiangyung*.

On 16th October, suddenly, at her residence, Mrs. KIMI NAKAMURA, of the Ikkakuro Hotel, Obama, near Nagasaki, Japan.

On 21st October, at Shanghai, FRANCISCO PAOL ROZARIO.

On 25th October, at Peak Hospital, of typhoid fever, FAIZULABHOY ESSABHOY EBRAHIM, partner in the firm of Messrs. Abdoolally, Ebrahim & Co. Aged 25 years. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

Owing to the recent obstruction to traffic in the Suez Canal the mail of 26th September, per N.D.L. s.s. *Sachsen*, due on October 25th, did not arrive until October 30th p.m. The mail of 19th September per M.M. s.s. *Tourane*, due here on October 30th, is from the same cause delayed and is now expected November 2nd.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The total number of plague cases in Hongkong since Jan. 1st is 295. Of these 277 were fatal.

The *Cablenews* reports the death of a Filipina woman on Oct. 20th whose age was recorded as 116 years.

The harbour of Tientshan, near Tungchow, is to be thrown open to foreign trade, according to the *Nanfengpao*.

Mr. A. H. Harris, Commissioner of Customs at Changsha, is shortly going on leave, and Mr. O. S. Ready is to succeed him.

A recent turn-out of the Penang Mounted Infantry Volunteers, according to the *Straits Times*, consisted of two sergeants, two corporals, and one private.

A German report says that the Japanese Government has decided to evacuate Manchuria within six months. This seems improbable, if not impossible.

The Shanghai Coal Guild has caused some consternation at the northern port by announcing "very material increases in the prices of all kinds of coal."

A report from Peking states that the Emperor has been confined by the Empress-Dowager, and four guards stationed over him, in connection with the recent bomb outrage.

The Shanghai branch of the Navy League sent a telegram to London asking that a wreath should be placed on the 21st inst. on Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square in the name of the Shanghai branch.

With the approval of the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Philip Jacks to be assistant Land Officer with effect from the 19th instant.

There is a suspicion of jocularity in this item from a Tientsin paper:—"The colloquial newspaper for women, recently started at Peking, has been suppressed by Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai, lest it should divulge secrets."

It is positively denied by the *Shuzyo Shimpō* that the Armstrong Company have entered into any arrangement to start works in Japan. Negotiations are said to be in progress with some other company, but nothing definite has been allowed to transpire.

The *Shén-pao* states that Governor Chen K'uei-lung, of Honan province, has written both to the Waiwupu and the Shangpu opposing the proposed opening up of certain iron deposits in the prefecture of Huaich'ingfu, in that province, by the Peking Syndicate, giving as his reason certain clauses of the Government Mining Regulations.

The Tientsin *China Review* asks:—"Have we no municipal Napoleon, no Tientsin Washington, no local Com. Barton to arise and wipe out the anomaly of 9 councils, 9 sets of rich's licences, 9 police forces, 9 expensive staffs? German, British, French, Japanese, Chinese, Austrian, Italian, Belgian and Russian. Surely the combined business acumen of Tientsin residents could evolve a scheme by which a saving of 50 per cent. could be effected in the grand total annual expenditure? Methinks, perhaps, this very business acumen precludes such a desirable consummation."

Governor Wright, of the Philippines, was reported to be resigning his governorship on 1st December next. It is not true.

The following notice was issued by the Haiho Conservancy Board with reference to tenders for dredging plant for the Taku Bar:—"The Commission begs to notify those firms that have sent in tenders that, the British Municipality having as yet received no reply from the Shipping Companies as a body consenting to the proposed tax on shipping, and the question of obtaining the required funds being accordingly still uncertain, any award in the case of the tenders received is for the present impossible and the matter must of necessity remain in abeyance."

A telegram received from Peking by the mandarins at Shanghai reports that the Ministers of the Waiwupu, after having duly decided upon the immediate opening up of the three Manchurian provinces to international trade, and the regulations to be connected therewith, have sent copies of the documents in question to the Shangpu and to his Excellency Yuan Shih-k'ai, Viceroy of Chihli and High Commissioner of Trade for the northern ports (Peiyang Ta-ch'ên), asking for their opinion, preparatory to obtaining the formal sanction of the Throne.

An interesting exhibition was given at Shanghai on Oct. 14th when the local fire brigades paraded for inspection. The Chairman of the Municipal Council made the following remark when addressing the men:—"It may not be too uncharitable to suspect that the monotonous upsetting of kerosine oil lamps is not wholly accidental: the Council has endeavoured to find a remedy for this epidemic but owing to the exceptional conditions under which the Settlement is administered it will be difficult to institute remedial measures, unless we have the active co-operation of those who are more directly interested."

Residents have been complaining of late at the length of time taken by laundry keepers in returning clothes, sometimes three weeks and even a month elapsing from the date of their being taken away. The master washerman says the trouble cannot be avoided. His employees have struck for more money, and this he cannot afford to give, as business is very bad. In order to ascertain the extent of this supposed strike a *Daily Press* representative has visited a number of laundries in the Central District, where he found the proprietors reticent. He noticed, however, that business was apparently suspended in a number of these usually busy places.

A *Daily Press* telegram from Hoochiefu Peking, on 24th Oct., said:—"The first grand manœuvres of the Chinese troops, in re-organised and modern form, began to-day (meaning Oct. 23) in the presence of the Viceroy, the Tieliang Military Governor, and the representatives of the Powers. The northern army is defending the road to Peking. The southern army, advancing from Shantung, has come into touch with it. Features of to-day's operations have been the clever scouting work, and a fine cavalry charge to close. Everyone seems greatly impressed by the enormous improvement noticeable in the discipline and general "savvy" of the yellow soldiers, both officers and men. It is no exaggeration to say that the advance made in five years is a sensational one."

HONGKONG'S HISTORIC CLOCK-TOWER.

(Daily Press 21st October.)

In closing the interesting discussion to which we have opened our columns during the past fortnight as to whether the Clock Tower should be removed or allowed to remain where it was erected by the voluntary contributions of the community more than forty years ago, we need scarcely emphasise the fact that the whole question must be decided according to the results of an inquiry into the allegation that it is an obstruction to traffic. "An Old Friend of the Tower," it is true, has advanced the legal point as to whether the Government can remove or destroy a building erected through the generosity of private individuals and handed over by them to the Government in trust for the public as a permanent memorial; but this is an argument which would doubtless not be pressed if it could be indubitably proved that the Tower is—what it has over and over again been alleged to be—an obstruction to traffic and a public danger. About the only thing the popular "Handbook of Hongkong" tells the visitor about our Clock Tower is that it stands at the top of Pedder Street, "obstructing the traffic," and there is, of course, the information that it was built by public subscription in 1862, and that the Clock was presented by the firm of DOUGLAS, LAPRAIK & Co. It should not be forgotten, though the fact has not been mentioned by anyone in the discussion, that the Government was a large, perhaps the largest contributor to the Tower Fund. The amount of the Government's contribution was \$725, which represented about one-eighth part of the total cost.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR has publicly stated that he is not convinced that any case exists for the removal of the Tower at present, and it must be allowed that our correspondents who favour the removal of this old landmark have not produced any convincing evidence that it is an obstruction and a danger to traffic. It is denied by the majority that there is any considerable traffic to or from Queen's Road into Pedder Street. It is for those who urge the contrary to prove their case and that, for a private citizen, is not an easy thing to do. No doubt the Government, in considering the matter, will obtain records of the traffic from the police, who also might be expected to be able to afford some information, from their "accident" records, as to whether the structure is a real danger to traffic or not. *Prima facie*, the elements of danger have increased since the tower was built. The population of the Colony, for one thing, is immensely larger now than it was then, and, for another, we have now on the streets of Hongkong over a thousand jinrickshas, whereas when the Tower was erected, we believe we are correct in saying this vehicle had yet to be introduced. If the Tower was an obstruction to traffic when it was erected, as was alleged at the time by some of the newspapers published in the Colony, it is conceivable that the advent of the jinricksha only made matters worse. Some of our correspondents have suggested that the Tower was more of an obstruction some years ago than it is to-day, or is likely to be in the future, now that the electric trams run along Des Vœux Road, which is rapidly becoming the principal thoroughfare of the Colony. We confess that we are unable to follow this line of argument; we are rather disposed to accept the view of our contributor "BANYAN," that when the new Post Office

and the new Law Courts, now being built in Des Vœux Road, are completed the probability is that the traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, to and from Queen's Road past the Clock Tower, will be very considerably increased, and this is a point which can hardly be overlooked in the consideration of the matter. If the whole of the facts should now or at any future time be held to demand the removal of the Tower we think a very suitable place for its re-erection—especially as the Post Office will probably be provided with a public clock—would be on the piece of waste ground at the junction of Battery Path with Queen's Road.

"MUCH THAT PASSES FOR HISTORY."

(Daily Press 23rd October.)

Of the manner in which much that ordinarily passes for history is made a curious example is shown in the so-called "revelations" lately published in the *Paris Matin*. According to these, the British Government had actually promised France, in case of her being attacked by Germany in consequence of the latter's pretensions in Morocco, to send a large fleet to the Baltic and to land a hundred thousand men in Sleswig-Holstein. Probably no one was so much surprised at the disclosure as the British FOREIGN MINISTER himself. Yet, of course, it was quite on the cards that at any moment such a statement would have become true had certain eventualities, which in the then temper of both France and Germany seemed not impossible, come about. In spite of the fact that community of interests for nearly a century has pointed to the propriety of a joint understanding between France and England, and in spite of the fact that, after a few preliminary growls on one side or other, France and England always did come to a perfectly friendly settlement, on every disputed point which did from time to time crop up, ancient jealousies raised a sentimental barrier to prevent the common understanding being formulated; so that it is only within the last two years that a definite and written truce has been arrived at. But beyond the strict wording of the treaty there is between the two countries an understanding, none the less real that it has never been put in writing, compelling both to act in unison in the case of any unprovoked interference with either on the part of the other nations of Europe. That Germany had in view some such unprovoked attack on France with regard to matters wherein France considered herself vitally interested seemed to some minds clear three months ago. Whether it was that France exaggerated the importance of certain protests made by Germany, or that the latter Power used in its communications language less polite than the circumstances of the case seemingly called for, does not much matter; perhaps both said and thought too much for the good of either. There is no doubt, however, that the questions regarding which the controversy arose were very intimately connected with other subjects on which we had come to a definite understanding with France, and supposing that France were correct in her apprehensions that Germany really did desire to take hostile measures against her, the understanding, written and tacit, seemed to call for our supporting France. It is, therefore, more than probable that in our confidential diplomatic relations such a contingency as that suggested should have been talked over between the two Foreign Offices. But it may be assumed as certain that it never

entered the realm of practical discussion; as the occasion to do so certainly never occurred. We heard the same or very similar things spoken of as occurring between Russia and Germany only last year. That there has existed between the two powers a sort of general understanding as to what each would do under certain emergencies, as we pointed out at the time, is not to be controverted and, indeed, has never been denied. The emergencies have not, however, occurred, nor probably are likely to occur, so that opinions expressed have never needed to be formulated, nor has our Foreign Office conceived it necessary to seek to unearth them. Such interchanges of thought between allied nations must be of frequent occurrence; and indeed may serve very useful ends in the interests of peace all round. It would be the height of indiscretion to publish these confidential communications. Such an indiscretion seems, however, to have been actually committed by someone connected more or less remotely with the French Office of Foreign Affairs. If the recent alliance between France and England is to mean anything it must imply that under certain eventualities one Power must be prepared to support the other. There must from the very nature of the thing itself be gathered some such implication. But such an implication by no means indicates any unfriendly or warlike purpose. If we were to tell France that if she invaded our shores we would meet her with war to the uttermost, the thing would be so much a matter of course that she could not interpret it, what we said, in any unfriendly spirit; and it is unlikely that she would be led into the indiscretion of asking our meaning. Such, however, seems to be the course that certain busybodies would press on the German Government. Under certain eventualities it is quite possible a British responsible Minister said we would be found with France in a quarrel with Germany. It is possible to conceive other eventualities under which we would most likely be found with Germany against France. Such eventualities have occurred before; and as history sometimes repeats itself, may occur again. Fortunately the diplomatic intercourse of great nations does not concern itself with the abstract. Occasions for quarrel are only too plenty to save the nations the trouble of raising them in advance, and should Germany be indiscreet enough to ask for further information we can probably rely on our FOREIGN MINISTER being able to explain matters in a sufficiently friendly yet dignified manner. Somebody has been indiscreet, but the indiscretion has fortunately not evolved anything of which anyone has cause to be ashamed.

CANADIAN DESIRES FOR CHINA TRADE.

(Daily Press 24th October.)

One of our Canadian contemporaries, the *Montreal Gazette*, is laudably anxious to capture the Chinese market for Canadian products; and considers that just now, "with the present antipathy of the Chinese toward American brands, Canada has opportunity to put Alberta flour in China to the amount before long of ten million dollars a year." And not flour only, but many other products are named by our colonial contemporary. It is entirely in the nature of things that Canadians should thus talk of profiting by the misfortune of their neighbour; and no business men will quarrel with the idea for any sentimental reasons; but it is still open to doubt if the present Chinese hostility to all things

American affords any particularly favourable chance for Canadian enterprise. The boycotters have not shown themselves uniformly able to discriminate; and Canadian goods, with others, have already been by them confounded with American. Certainly it is incorrect to say that the boycott "has proven that the Oriental spirit is in favour of Britain." The Oriental spirit is in favour of the best value, or the apparently best, and if Canada can send candles, clocks, cut leather, safes, typewriters, sewing machines, hardware, street cars, carriages, chemicals, glass, stoves, and chairs—as enumerated in the *Gazette*—to compete with American or other prices, we have no doubt they will receive ample attention from Chinese buyers. But they must not build too much, as they appear to be doing, on the temporary discredit of America and the pro-British influences of the Japanese alliance.

Working out the shipping side of the question, our contemporary makes a very plausible showing. America is handicapped in any case, it is pointed out, by speed and by distance from Chinese markets. Canadian ships have a thousand miles less of longitude to traverse. If the speed of the "Empress" steamers were to be raised from fourteen to eighteen knots, Canada could deliver goods in China from London, New York, and Montreal ten days sooner, and consequently in better condition than the stuff coming from the United States via San Francisco, which is said to be the only American port on the Pacific having sufficient draught for fast mail ships. Therefore, nine new twelve-thousand-ton steamers of eighteen knot speed are advocated to be put on at Vancouver, to make two weekly sailings. For these, our Canadian confrères consider there would be plenty of business. "The cool northern route should, when more fully advertised in England and India, secure all of the British army travel." Railroad rates, it is admitted, would have to be lowered, as the Canadian route is three hundred miles longer; and then: "Manchester will secure a large part of the cotton exports to China, twenty-seven million dollars a year of which America now enjoys, but Canada might in time do as much as five million a year of this business." This reads as if our contemporary were not particularly well posted on the Chinese demand for cotton goods, some proportion of which Manchester is supposed to have already secured; while America's contribution, in comparison with the bulk, is regarded as a mere detail. Our contemporary is more practical in advising that all Canadian exports should be plainly labelled: "Made in Canada, British Empire." Another practical suggestion is to invite Chinese students to Canadian colleges, for "each Chinese graduate will be a most effective foreign commercial agent." Still labouring the point of the golden opportunity, they prophesy that "the labour element in America will never permit the American Government to take down the Chinese exclusion bars at the Pacific, treaty or no treaty." And a still more extraordinary prophecy is: "America will challenge Japan over the Philippines, and the 'open door' in China. The former will be lost within eight years; and Hawaii will tremble as a hostage, for the Panama canal will not be completed in fifteen years." Another forecast is one whose fulfilment we shall pray for, viz.: that "Japan will probably influence China to erect her finances upon a gold basis." Japan may have the credit, and welcome. But in many places our Canadian contemporary is patently and excessively optimistic; and he who begins

to read hopefully must feel the reaction at the end.

THE CHINESE ARMY MANŒUVRES.

(Daily Press, 25th October.)

In these iconoclastic days, when we find scientists like Professor DARWIN "going one better" than the philosophic and poetic conjectures of HERACLITUS and ECCLESIASTES, and affirming that even the atom is mutable and unstable, it may seem petty to emphasise the dawn of change in China. Yet the chorus is swelling that proclaims revolutionary tendencies in this portion of the "unchanging East;" and while many may doubt the imminence of vital reform, it is impossible to close our eyes to the fact that, so far as the Middle Kingdom is concerned, the present is an epoch of history making. Our correspondent at the Chinese army manœuvres has manifestly been impressed by the military change he has witnessed, to characterise which he has felt obliged to use the term "sensational." This endeavour to organise an army worthy of the name, in place of the old-time aughing-stock, was an inevitable outcome of recent events. China had long held the biblical idea of an army, as "terrible with banners"; and if the appliances and grimaces of her soldiers failed to strike terror into the hearts of the enemy, there was but feeble striking of any other sort. So the world has been accustomed to smile when Chinese troops were mentioned; and not even the achievements of the forces that followed General GORDON were sufficient to make them much less a byword among more warlike folk. It is interesting to note that the foreign scorn has never been shared by the Japanese. It is true, the MIKADO's fighting-men did not find their whilom enemies formidable in action; but they have not felt any contempt for the men themselves. They believe that the Chinese will one day make excellent soldiers. They are even generous enough to say that under similar conditions they would do no better. A Japanese naval officer remarked in our hearing recently that the fact that China had no soldiers was due to three things. The first was the absence of the devoted loyalty to the Throne which characterises the Japanese forces; and for this the Chinese rank and file could not be blamed, as there had never been anything done to cause them to regard their Emperor as the father of his people. The second was the individualistic principles taught in their popular philosophies—a proposition too indefinite for us to pursue here. The third was official corruption, which involved the recognition by the soldiers that whatever good they did might not be recognised or rewarded, and the certainty that whatever they suffered they would not be recompensed or cared for. It is to be presumed that the measure of improvement now being witnessed at Peking is the result of better organisation, and a nascent esprit de corps. No doubt, also, the Japanese officers who have been entrusted with the task of training an army from the raw material would bring their own methodicalness into play, and probing the weak spots they knew to exist at the roots, have insisted upon cauterisations wherever necessary. If not, the results of their labour, brilliant as they now appear, must prove impermanent.

We will take it, however, that all is as it should be; and that the martial spirits of China are at last coming to their own. The "sensational" work of five years

will surely be bettered in ten; and in another decade, we may reckon upon a China new and strange to us, one whose protests cannot be ignored, nor her diplomatic toes lightly trodden upon. It is perhaps just as well to familiarise ourselves with the idea, so that we may consider the order of our going. It is to be hoped, moreover, that the changes and reforms may reach high places; otherwise this new-born army will be indeed a yellow peril. An idol with feet of brass and head of clay would be every bit as dangerous as the one that has been reversely described for us. China must not assume that Japan's success is due to military strength alone. There had to be administrative strength also, and this is China's primary need. The news from Peking is good, so far as it goes; but to the real friends of China it but signifies a putting of the cart before the horse. As a symptom, however, like the organisation and training of, Chinese police forces, we may hail it with present satisfaction.

COREA.

(Daily Press, 26th October.)

Corea has again become a dependency of Japan. This will be disputed by the *Korea Daily News*, we have no doubt; but our belief that it is true, is strengthened and confirmed as much by the lucubrations of that journal as by any of the other numerous evidences that we have been given lately. For some time we were puzzled by the constant references occurring in this foreign journal published at Seoul; and we are still at a loss to understand our contemporary's apparent inability to recognise accomplished facts. Reluctance to accept them we can understand, if we cannot fully appreciate it; but what object is to be gained by its persistent girdings is not clear to us. Our contemporary appears to us as one "kicking against the picks"; or as a SISYPHUS, hauling laboriously a useless boulder towards an inaccessible peak. For instance, so late as the ninth of this month (or subsequent to the publication of the new Anglo-Japanese Treaty) we find the *Korea Daily News* hinting that appearances indicate what we have been supposing to be generally accepted as *un fait accompli*. It says in one place: "The mysterious generosity in pressing upon the Household Department a loan of Y1,500,000 has yet to be explained, but past experience leads us to believe that it only means another nail in Corea's coffin." Our contemporary further fears "the relegation of Corea's diplomatic affairs to Tokyo." We suppose even that will come in time; and will certainly not be surprised. In the meantime, are we wrong in assuming that all the nails have been driven into the coffin that is to contain Corean independence? As we have said, we thought that was all understood and settled.

We certainly cannot think of joining the ranks of those who wish to emphasise the wickedness of annexation—be it called by any other diplomatic term—in this case. From the Corean point of view, of course, a great deal could, no doubt, be said. But we are not Corean, any more than is our Seoul contemporary; and for us the adage concerning glass houses and stone throwing seems applicable. It may seem virtuous and good, but it is none-the-less old-fashioned and puerile in these days to prate too much of ethics in connection with national politics and their very serious necessities. To stick to the question at issue, we should as soon think of deprecating, on moral grounds, Great Britain's

occupation of Gibraltar as Japan's of Corea. We could excuse the Spaniard who did so, although we should not treat his protestation *au grand sérieux*. The illustration, on reflection, must appear an apt one. Corea was the real crux of the late war. Japanese paramountcy therein, legalised so to speak, and certainly sanctioned and confirmed by the recent Treaty, removes, for ever we trust, a bone of contention. We did not want it. China never kept it. Corea herself has never proved herself capable of maintaining her independence. She was an abandoned hulk—a danger to international navigation—the property of her salvor. Once we dismiss the ethically correct but impossible Korean view-point, we have no difficulty in recognising Japan's rights in that quarter. They are, incidentally, more easily proven than those of China, Corea's nominal suzerain. She is said to have paid tribute to Japan long before she did to China. Corea had a habit of acknowledging herself vassal to any power that paid her a visit. She preferred the Chinese, perhaps, because they fidgetted her less than the active Japanese, who behaved like the young cuckoo in the nest, as (the *Korea Daily News* tells us) they are even now doing. China did little to protect her vassal until towards the end of the sixteenth century. Then there was a seven years war, during which, as Mr. ARCHIBALD LITTLE reminds us, the Koreans were not "consulted by either side in the various conventions and treaties entered into during its course." There was as little reason for consulting them then as there is to-day. "It is characteristic of the Koreans that history does not report their having taken any part in the war which had desolated their country." Perhaps this "masterly inactivity" will be counted unto them for righteousness by those who are now constituting themselves Corea's champions against Japanese aggression; and be held to entitle them to greater sympathy from all good men. It may not be a Utopian standpoint to take, to remind them that "war is the supreme test of a nation's virility, and that corruption and indolence spell the rationale of defeat"; but it is sufficiently practical for this world and these times; and we derive some satisfaction from the reflection that the present disposition of affairs promises to relieve us of what has too long been a menace to the peace of the Orient.

CHINA'S CONFUSED CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, 27th October.)

That was an excellent point made by the CHAIRMAN of the China Association, in his speech to the local members on Wednesday, when he suggested that the introduction of trunk lines of railway throughout the Chinese empire would help to bring about the currency reform so obviously necessary and yet so strangely balked at by the Chinese Government. The picture which he drew of the travelling Chinaman, with his carefully calculated travelling funds tied up in a handkerchief, and his dismay at finding his calculations upset by the vagaries of exchange as he passed from province to province;—this picture, it must be admitted, was vivid enough to convince almost anybody. But whether the excellence of the illustration goes beyond its interest as a picture of conditions which will inevitably be witnessed is another matter. Judging the future by the past, we fear that those very anomalies will have the effect of maintaining the popularity of the present chaotic system. The CHAIRMAN

of the China Association portrayed for us a travelling Chinaman learning, when traversing the future railway system of his country, how a much-mixed currency may affect his pocket. Being thus made to realise the drawbacks incidental to the absence of a common standard, he would, Mr. GERSHOM STEWART thought, assist in raising "a cry for a common standard. . . . throughout the land." To us it appears that the situation might not be vastly different to the present. The iniquitous system (as we may call it in the absence of an apt word) now in vogue is full of potential "squeezes," and its evils, as the China Association will be the first to admit, are already painfully apparent to Chinese as well as to foreigners. General railway travel cannot make them more apparent, we should think, except by turning another facet, as it were, to the light. It has to be remembered that China includes both squeezers and squeezed. To set against the Chinese railway passengers who will, in the looked-for day of trunk lines, complain of the extortions due to the differing currencies, there must be Chinese who will smile complacently as they pouch these heaven-sent profits, these truly unearned increments. Are there not already, quite apart from the railways, and in all parts of the Empire, those who find themselves mulcted of sums for which they see no return? Why has the great cry not already gone up, and the Chinese Imperial Government decreed that common standard which would put an end to the annoyance; instead of, as it actually is doing, obstinately neglecting to carry out its express undertaking to provide a uniform national coinage? For what possible reason but that the squeezers, and not the squeezed, have, as the expressive colloquialism puts it, "the pull." Railways we will welcome, of course. There is no need to describe what they will do for China. But we hope we may not have to wait for the fulfilment of the promise of 1902 until there are trunk lines throughout the country. For what the China Association has done in pressing for this much-needed reform we are grateful, even although they "cannot claim that much progress has been made." The British Commercial Treaty of three years ago was a piece of wonderful progress: it was the principal step. In commerce the making of a contract is usually regarded as vital progress. Great Britain has a definite contract with China, and it is time we adopted the business-like procedure of having it carried out. Perhaps when Earl PERCY is more fully informed, or when he and his colleagues are succeeded by "new brooms," we may begin again to hope.

WEIHAI.

(Daily Press, 28th October.)

Whereas beforetime all the discussion was whether Great Britain would not have to evacuate Weihai in accordance with the peculiar term of the lease—"for so long a period as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia"—it is noticeable that now the demagogues are debating the matter from the practical view of utility. Is Weihai worth keeping? Is it wise to abandon it? The question seems to be accepted as one of pure policy: if British interests seem to demand it, the quaint lease of 1898 is assumed to carry with it a renewal option; or perhaps the legal procedure of defining anything as something else is to be employed, and the word "Russia" to be interpreted as embracing "any foreign Power." The terms of the

lease made it quite clear that the object of Weihai was the protection of British shipping, the said protection presumably being against Russia and/or Germany, Germany is now attacking British shipping by legitimate methods against which no amount of northern naval bases can avail, while the Russian danger is and will be for a long time a negligible quantity. The raison d'être of Weihai seems, therefore, to have gone. It is no longer a fortified naval base, but only a harbour and a sanitarium for British warships of the China station. The sanitarium idea seems to have been worked to death. What necessity there is for such a refuge for men living a healthy, breezy, open-air life at sea, and who are relieved and sent Home at comparatively short intervals, is not easily made apparent to the British resident of, say, Hongkong, who toils ashore through all the heat and supposedly unhealthy days, for much longer intervals, and has practically nothing of which to complain on the score of fitness. Hongkong affords ample harbourage, and is, besides, more conveniently situated for any hasty naval mobilisation. Then again, Great Britain's naval strength out here is being considerably reduced, so that if these be the only arguments for the retention of Weihai, even the "niggardly grant-in-aid of £3,000" must be regarded as more than the measure of Weihai's value to us. So far, this cursory review would appear to justify those who clamour for the abandonment of the alleged useless place. Yet the British Government some time ago definitely intimated that it had no intention of vacating Weihai, and the British MINISTER at Peking has confirmed this within the last few days, by officially contradicting a rumour that evacuation was under consideration. There must be a reason or reasons for the Government's policy, a policy behind the policy; and though we are not in a position to indicate its nature, we believe, let us say intuitively, that that policy will one day be justified. The parrot-cry of Chinese integrity will not be always heard; human nature in its course is fighting against the honest or pseudo-honest standard at present raised by the Powers. Great Britain can still raise it without losing face; but, at the best, it means for each and all: "There must be no grabbing; but should there be, let us grab most." Russia gone from Port Arthur does not restore Chinese integrity: Japan remains. With England out of her small corner of Shantung, there would still be Germany; and the German motto in that quarter is assuredly *vestigia nulla retrorsum*. The longer the deluge of annexation is dammed back, the better it will be; but few believe the dam will hold up for ever. It has too many internal weaknesses. When it does burst, we hope there may be a British gun or two still at Weihai.

The following interesting expression of opinion is said to have appeared in the *Manchuria Daily Report*, a Japanese paper published in Newchwang:—"In the name of justice, for the cause of the doomed race, and under the necessity of self-preservation, Japan has bought Manchuria for a dear price in blood and money. She has readjusted the upset 'balance of power' in the Far East. She has saved China from inevitable dismemberment. She has effected, at the last minute, the salvation of herself and China. Manchuria is hers by her just right. For obvious reasons, she demanded of Russia the restoration of its suzerainty to China before Japan had paid anything, but, after the full price has been given for it, what just man on earth could dispute Japan's legitimate ownership?"

THE CLOCK TOWER AGAIN.

A REJOINDER.

(Contributed).

A fitful fire of criticism directed against the line of my defence of the Clock Tower reveals the enemy still active, though evidently somewhat disheartened. A volley or two in response, just to show that the defenders are on the lookout, seems justified by the provocation. But first it may be as well to endeavour to pick off the sharpshooters who have exposed themselves. The first to appear head and shoulders over the opposing ridge and to "ease off," was "Outis." His shot was curiously deflected by a gust of inconsistency and went low and to the left. (Was "Outis" not a misprint for "Outer"?). Beginning with a question which seemed to indicate contempt for the whole controversy, he thereupon proceeded to plunge into it. "Why all this pother about the Clock Tower?" he indignantly demanded to know, addressing the editor of the *Daily Press*. What answer the latter made has not been revealed, but the true answer is obvious enough. It may be indicated thus: A hits B. B hits back. A fight ensues. A then wants to know what the row is about. B naturally says "you know best, seeing that you began it." Those who seek to remove the Tower are solely responsible for the present "pother." Had they kept silent nothing would have been said by those whose only desire is that it should be left alone in peace and quietness to tell the time and the town's story. "Outis" proclaims in his opening paragraph that personally he has "no use for" the Tower, and in his second that it is not a thing of beauty and inconceivably, therefore, a joy to anyone. He moreover states that he fails to see how information is to be gleaned from a "solid mass of masonry." Readers of my articles may recollect that its use as a record was only suggested as applying in the case of a reflective observer. To an observer incapable of reflection it would be of no use—no more use than falling apples were before Newton. "Outis" says he has no use for it. Its sermon could only be read by him if printed on a brass plate. That being so the reader who had so far followed his argument would naturally expect to find him advocating destruction, but instead of proceeding to its natural conclusion his argument suddenly recedes in the oddest manner and ends up with a proposal to re-erect. In the small space of half a column "Outis" executes a complete change of character. In a twinkling, as in a cinematograph, you see him flick through two whole "parts." One minute he appears flourishing the pick and shovel of the destroyer and advancing in a menacing war dance upon the apparently doomed edifice; the next he is seen reformed and disarmed, no longer destroyer but saviour, picking up with gentle solicitude the astonished structure—picking it up bodily in his arms and conveying it with tender care to a new and a better place. In spite of his declaration to the contrary "Outis" has, after all, a use for it. He would have it set up on the Praya. Imagine the joy of the poor old thing—its very stones crying out in gladness over the unexpected escape from sudden death and disintegration, and the damp and cold of a watery grave! Friends of the Tower are grateful for this relief, but still hold to the opinion that it will be much more useful as a record where it is. In return for his magnanimity, however, they would, I am sure, be prepared to accept his suggestion and concede a brass plate for the benefit of those who cannot otherwise read the story which the "solid mass of masonry" more subtly tells.

The next sharpshooter who exposed himself did so in a clumsy manner. He quite evidently imagined that he disposed of my appeal for preservation by alleging that it was based upon sentiment. Apologising to the general run of readers for a digression into elementary truths, I am compelled by this critic to point out that in all human affairs sentiment is a rather more important matter than he seems to realise. "Hongkong," according to this authority, "is a progressive colony and, as such, has no 'time for sentiment.'" It is clear from this astonishing statement that sentiment is

regarded by him as a sort of "extra" to be indulged in only by unprogressive people and places whose time hangs heavy on hand. It does not seem to have dawned upon him that sentiment is the sustaining force acting in opposition to elemental gravitation and alone making upward progress possible. Unsustained by it, progress is a mere "going on," and, where the lie of the land is downhill, a mere going down. Sentiment gives progress wings. Only with these can it ever soar. Without them it drops down to the earth and becomes earthy. Sentiment is the soul of man. Without it he is a mere animal. Without it he will know hunger and thirst, the sensual pleasures and nothing more. Sentiment determines the course of every meritorious human action from the rising to the setting of the sun. Instead of being a something that amounts to nothing, it is the something without which everything is nothing. It is the basis of government; the breath of patriotism; the vital essence of religion; the secret of nobility; honesty derives from it; all the virtues depend upon it—truth, honour, courtesy, charity, all have their roots in it; it is the source of chivalry; the spirit of love and the soul of war. It is, in a word, the ruling force in life. Even to contemplate this gigantic truism as a questionable matter is irritating, but when a writer in the public press actually seeks to disparage an argument by discovering its roots in sentiment, the necessity for pointing out rather forcibly the dimensions of his enormity unfortunately arises. Of course my appeal was based on sentiment. There is no question about that; never could be. But to hold it vain for that reason only is to deny the most obvious truths of human existence. The sentiment must be shown to be bad, just as his argument may be, before it stands condemned. The same writer failed to "see what really sound object your contributor had in writing." As regards my object I should have thought it was sufficiently clear. However, I will try to put it even more plainly. It was to prevent if possible the removal of the Clock Tower. Whether that object is sound is the question at issue. I wrote urging that it was sound. I gave my reasons. If "Anti-Sentimental" fails to see them, that is his fault, not mine.

So much for the sharpshooters. Now for the batteries masked by the editorial "we." Only two have opened fire. One of these was firing blank—blank nonsense. At first I read as a joke the statement that the Tower was a block to ventilation. I fancied a friend in disguise. But I have been assured that this ground was selected in all seriousness. Ventilation? The whole Praya, west of the "South China Morning Post" office, is built up with houses anything up to 200 feet deep and something like 20 feet wide, and the only ventilation is a narrow shaft descending half way through. If the editor is sincerely anxious to promote the cause of ventilation there is a fine field here for his powers of persuasion. But to try to persuade anybody that a tower situated at the T made by two wide roads can be in any way unhealthy is, as was said, blank nonsense. If the public has been able to breathe freely in the Queen's Road since 1862 (and the public has never hitherto complained that the Tower actually stuck in its throat) it is hard to believe that it is now in sudden danger of suffocation.

Ventilation? Wind! Mere sound and fury signifying nothing. No; it does signify something. It signifies the desperate straits to which our friends the destroyers are put. To advance such a reason is to confess no reason. It indicates argumentative bankruptcy.

The other editorial battery has been pounding away with its now obsolete gun—the block gun—obsolete since the transfer of traffic to Des Voeux Road. Its shells fall short and don't burst. The weapon has been tacitly abandoned by all others. In fact the case for obstruction seems now to rest solely on the *ipse dixit* of the young and promising literary lion—or is he a griffin—who roars in so threatening a manner from his editorial cave; without, we hope, seriously dismaying the Government. Youth is the age of "we-ism," said the late Sir William Harcourt. The "China Mail" seems to have renewed its youth. Anyhow in this argument it has been displaying some of the characteristics of that enviable state; impatience, cocksureness, dogmatic disregard of ancient

lights and ancient rights. But not even the youngest of us is always right, as Jowett said, and "we-ism" in this case is more than a wee bit wrong.

From the same battery is now also to be heard the vicious snap of a more modern weapon than the block gun. The logic of the new argument advanced assails every monument and historical relic in existence. It is this: Because "there are very few residents here to-day who saw the Tower in the halcyon days of its youth" and because "so rapidly does the European population change that men with even experience of a decade would bulk very small alongside the rest of the European community"; therefore "to the majority of those now living in the Colony the Tower as 'it stands means nothing at all.'"

Here you have the spirit of the vandal with a vengeance! The same argument would lead to the demolition of Westminster Abbey. To the majority of those now living in London the Abbey means nothing at all. It only means anything to anybody when thinking about it, and the majority of London residents are too busy to think about it. The same may be said of any architectural relic that cannot be turned to so-called practical use. May I suggest, without impropriety, that not only a majority of those who were present at the Great Fire of London, but all, are dead. They have joined the great majority. Yet the fact has so far not been used as an argument in favour of removing the Monument! But the majority argument is too absurd to pursue. It inverts the whole world-wide view of these matters. Just because the men of the past are dead do we cherish their works. It is their very helplessness that makes their appeal to be remembered so powerful. The Roman Empire is rather far away in time from our contentions, the men who built it up and maintained it through many centuries are 'a long time dead', but for that very reason the walls of Chester are preserved. For that very reason! And for the same reason, though of course ever so mildly applied, the Clock Tower should be preserved where it stands. That at least is my view, and the urgency of it is the reason of my putting pen to paper in the original instance, and now for the second time.

In conclusion let me sum up the questions raised in this controversy with the correct answers (as they appear to me) appended. What harm does the Tower do, standing where it is? None. Does it inconvenience a single soul? Not one. Does it seriously obstruct the traffic? No. Is it really so very ugly? By no means. And answering these questions thus, there arises naturally the further question, —Why not let it alone?

If only those who have power of life and death in these matters will let it alone there will be no more "pother" and "Outis" and his friends will have no occasion to complain. I, for one shall be glad to sign a treaty of peace with them on these terms; but only on these terms; only on condition that the sentiment, which "Outis" says I have wasted, is not wasted, as he says. He is too quick in saying so. It remains to be seen whether the sentiment has or has not been thrown away. If the tower were to be destroyed in spite of it all, then the waste would have to be admitted. But I hope for better things. I hope to find it—say in twenty years time, when the sands will be running low, and I make my final tour of this merrily spinning old world of ours to bid it all goodbye—I hope to find the Tower still standing where it is to-day in the quiet corner of a bustling and a thriving and progressive town.

Yes, in spite of Mr. Anti-Sentimental's fears, I have not got into any particular groove from where I can only look back. I find myself, I am thankful, quite able to look forward as well. I rejoice to say that I have no stiff neck, making but one view possible either way. And looking forward to Hongkong's promising future, I feel the sentiment of local patriotism deepened and increased by contemplation of its past. Not because I am at war with the present—I am not—or indifferent to the future—it belongs to us all—but because I am also a part of the past, as the past is a part of me, I have a sentiment—yes, Mr. Anti-Sentimental, a sentiment—of affectionate regard for all that helps us to reconstruct

in imagination the lives of those who have gone before us "down the long avenue"; in whose foot-steps we tread; in whose room we now make merry; whose heirs and inheritors on this once barren rock, for better or worse, we are.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held at the City Hall on the 25th October. The Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart (chairman), presided, and there were also present: Mr. M. Stewart (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. A. G. Wood, H. W. Robertson, F. Salinger, G. H. Medhurst, E. Osborne, (committee) E. W. Mitchell, T. Hough, L. P. Cochrane, W. G. Humphreys, H. E. Pollock, K. C., A. R. Lowe, A. J. Raymond, J. C. Peter, W. J. Saunders, E. S. Barrett, A. S. D. Cousland and W. Parlance.

The Chairman's speech was as follows:—As it is usual here to accept as read reports which have been in the hands of members for some days, I propose to follow the prevailing custom, and ask you to accept as read the report I have now the honour to present to you. As mentioned therein, the period covered is one of exceptional interest, for during the whole of the time the world has been witnessing one of the greatest conflicts ever fought, and quite the greatest in regard to the enormous powers of destruction brought to bear by the respective combatants one against the other. Happily it is over, and the loss of life and the misery involved, heavy as they are, are less by far than a contest waged with equal valour would have been in ancient days, when fighting hand to hand was the accepted principle of warfare. Now that Japan has emerged victorious the position of affairs in China will probably be much improved, in so far as the fear of partition is to a great extent removed. And it looks as if we are profiting by the occasion, as witness the new loan by the Hongkong Government to pay the Americans and Belgians out of the Canton-Hankow Railway. In common with every British subject in China, we have reason to rejoice at the forethought which conceived, and the wisdom which carried out, this bold stroke. Although delays may be tedious, and although we may suffer often from hope deferred, we have before us an infinitely brighter prospect than we have had in China ever since the construction of the Siberian Railway which, with its implied absorption of the North of China by Russia, hung like a thundercloud over the heads of home capitalists contemplating investments out here. (Applause.) That we have maintained our position as well as we have done is due largely to the tenacity and energy of individual British traders at various ports in China, and to the yeoman service which has been often rendered by various Consuls, and to the capacity of our Minister at present at Peking. (Applause.) As regards West River steamers, barriers in the Canton River and various other items in our report, including the Rights of Neutrals during War, the published correspondence deals with them, and the position we have taken up will, we trust, be approved of. The memorandum by Mr. Kopsch we recommend to your attention as it gives information upon a subject which most of us in the South know little or nothing of, and is about a country which we hope has abounding possibilities for peaceful development. (Hear hear.) In reference to the Canton-Kowloon railway, our report and the correspondence we publish shows the line we have steadily followed, and I will not enlarge further upon it except to say that I am sure all members of this Association will gladly assist at the cutting of the first sod, if there is any ceremony on that interesting occasion. (Applause.) If there are delays with the negotiations at Peking let us at any rate have none as to doing our own section, which will certainly encourage the others interested to persevere. As regards the general question of railway enterprise in China our letter of July 5, which we partly publish, shows our views as to the advisability of our uniting with our allies in this direction. That there should be on the part of China a firm desire to control her own railways is only natural, and those who, like ourselves, have no

territorial ambitions in China, can view that desire with respect and sympathy. But for lack of engineering skill and capital China must get foreign aid to construct her railways and that is where it appears to us a field is open to our energies. We have built railways in the North and handed them over subsequently to China, so our railway record is good as far as it goes. Were China strong there would be no fear on her part. But at the moment China materially is weak, and weakness always produces nervousness and irritability. When China was really strong, 600 to 700 years ago, under Ghengis Khan and Kublai Khan, she welcomed foreigners much more freely than she did later under the less powerful Mings. Under the great Emperor Kiang Hi she was distinctly more liberal to outsiders than she is to-day. Historically, therefore, we have no reason to dread a reasonably strong China. The "Yellow Peril" cry has no fear for those who feel that China's natural genius does not lead to conquest and aggression, but China absolutely weak and lying as a carcass for the eagles is a real danger to the peace of the world. The question of uniform currency for China has occupied our attention as the appendix shows. We cannot claim that much progress has been made, but we hope that what has been done up till now will not be entirely useless. As in all great reforms the real impetus must come from within and not from without, and I think no influence will be so potent in arriving at this desired end as trunk lines of railways throughout the country. When the travelling Chinaman finds himself "squeezed" in exchange over every railway ticket a cry for a common standard will surely go up throughout the land, and the engineer will have conquered where the financier and diplomatist have failed. One can imagine the Chinese countryman arriving at a station with his fare tied up in a handkerchief which he has carefully calculated for about a month; one can see his disgust and wrath as extra cash, or perhaps even cents, are demanded at the ticket office. What hootings into secret pockets! One can almost hear the interchange of invective which will pass across the ticket window and how the respectability of the ancestors of the contending parties would be called in question! We can picture the grumblings of those awaiting their turn and the laughter of those who have passed through the ordeal. The victim would appear ridiculous, and ridicule to the Chinaman is infinitely stronger than cold argument. His acute sense of humour will push very strongly against love of old custom, so I believe ere long one coin would be acceptable throughout the length and breadth of the Celestial Empire, like the Pekingese dialect. (Applause.) I will now refer to the paragraph under the heading "China League." This and the correspondence in appendix B. shows what we have done. We regret that there should be two bodies pursuing the same ends, although by different means. The objects and reasons for our existence are stated at the back of this report, and we contend that these reasons are peaceful and justifiable. We think the best ways of attaining these objects are those we pursue. There are many things we may wish to see put right which it would be impossible to advertise too largely. At the same time we have no intention of sitting quietly in the pocket of the Foreign Office, and being thought worthy of commendation because we never give them any trouble. It is our only excuse for existence that we are prepared to push, and push hard when opportunity requires it. (Applause.) We venture to think, can only be a useful body as long as we maintain an independent and, at the same time, a friendly attitude; and if we further establish a good record for being at once active and not without discretion, there are times and occasions when we can be useful to our own officials as they can be to us. That we exist for the care of British interests in no way means that we grudge good fortune to the energies and abilities of those who may compete with us. The press bickerings which at times come across the world to this colony, must be deplored by all thinking men. It would be a good thing if the proprietors of those misguided papers (and we have plenty of them) were to send their editors to one or more of the ports between Singapore and Tientsin for a period. It would be to them a

valuable education, for they would find men of many nations closely competing for the favour of fortune and yet living together in complete harmony and mutual respect, ripening with many of us into firm and enduring friendship. The brotherhood of mankind may be a Utopian deal, but it is none the less an ideal worthy of being sought after, and to start out designedly with evil intent and malice aforethought to destroy it, seems nothing short of monstrous iniquity, and merits assuredly the utmost condemnation. (Applause.) I earnestly hope that the accusation of fermenting mutual distrust and ill-will will never be laid with justice at the doors of the China Association. (Applause.)

Mr. POLLOCK—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts which have been presented and circulated to members. I think we are all agreed, gentlemen, that our committee have worked well for us during the past eighteen months, and we rejoice to see the strenuous and energetic steps they have taken in connection with the promotion of the long deferred railway from Kowloon to Canton. I see that in the columns of the public press an impression seems to have got abroad—which, as I gather from the correspondence is a mistaken one—to the effect that the committee of this Association has been interesting itself in connection with the recent loan which has been made to the Wuchang Viceroy. I see from a perusal of the correspondence that that appears to have been a mistake on the part of the press, because, I gather that the only references made by our committee to the question of railways in China have been with reference to our connection with this railway, which we hope to see very soon started—the railway from Kowloon to Canton. (Applause.) I think, gentlemen, it would be a mistake, if I may venture to say so, if an impression got abroad that our committee in Hongkong were, as it were, discharging their energies too widely, and I am quite sure they have been doing wisely in concentrating themselves upon this particular railway to run from Kowloon to Canton. At the same time I quite agree with the chairman that it is a subject for very great congratulation that our Government, the British Government, has thought fit to take the step which they have done in regard to the Hankow-Canton railway. We are very glad to see that step taken on the part of our Government, and I am sure we should all very cordially endorse it. (Applause.) With reference to the subject of uniform coinage for China, I have read the correspondence in the appendix; that correspondence is not a very lengthy one, and does not seem to me to have been carried on very recently. I think, if I may venture to say so, that the attention of the committee would be very well employed in pressing on this subject of uniform coinage for China, because, as the chairman pointed out, and I quite agree with him, it is a very important question indeed, and a subject for all of us who live out here to make and save money to consider. It is very desirable in our own interests, and in the interests of trade generally, that there should be some uniform and suitable currency established in China. Another point referred to in the report is the question of the registration of trade marks. It is rather difficult to discuss a question in which there is no correspondence printed in the appendix. What appears to me a very important point is this: that there would not be very much utility, so far as I can see at present, in the establishment of a branch office at Canton unless we are able to secure from the Chinese Government some protection in connection with trade marks. I don't know that there would be very much utility in establishing a branch office for trade marks at Canton simply for the sake of publishing certain trade marks registered in respect of certain goods, unless we are prepared to go a step further and ask the Chinese Government to help us in preventing the infringement of trade marks, which we often have to complain of in this Colony. There are those in this room, perhaps, who are more competent to discuss this subject than I am. With these few remarks I most cordially concur with your concluding remarks, Mr. Chairman, and hope the Association will never develop into a jingo party—which is not I think our proper position—but advocates an open field

and equal opportunity for all trades without fear or favour. I think if we proceed on these lines we shall do good and useful work in the future, as we have done in the past. (Applause.)

Mr. HUMPHREYS said—If I am in order, I should like to ask whether the committee have as yet taken any action with regard to the violation by the Viceroy of Canton of the stipulation in the Mackay Treaty, which provides for the more effectual opening of the Inland Waterways of China; as we all know, the British flag has practically been ordered off the river between Wuchow and Nanning. It is a matter of public notoriety that the Viceroy is defying the British Consul in Canton in this matter, and that the latter is helpless. It is the old story. The Consul appeals to his Minister in Peking. The Minister goes to the Wai-wu-pu. The Wai-wu-pu has no information. The Wai-wu-pu will enquire; a week, a month passes, and again the Minister complains, then he is informed that instructions have been sent to the Viceroy to carry out the conditions of the Treaty. Then he interprets in any way that suits himself and so he replies that he is fulfilling them. The Wai-wu-pu informs the British Minister that the Viceroy reports that he is carrying out the Treaty, and the Minister then asks the Consul if things are now in order (probably giving him a hint at the same time to smooth things over). Meanwhile nothing is done, and if the Consul refuses to sit down under the humiliation the whole farce begins all over again. This seems to me to be eminently a matter in which this association might seek to strengthen the hands both of the Minister and Consul by vigorous representations at Home. As regards Mr. Pollock's reference to trade marks, there is already a bureau established at Shanghai. But so far as the law is at present, all they do is to give you a number in recognition of your trade mark. Anyone who has a trade mark could send it to Shanghai and have it filed. If it was not filed it was quite likely someone else might get a similar mark registered by and by.

After some further remarks on this subject, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that registration depended entirely upon the spirit in which the Chinese Government carried it out. Up to the present nothing had been done.

The report was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN said:—You will see from the accounts that we have a credit balance of something over \$1,000—in view of this and our small expenses we have not collected any subscriptions for 1905, as we deemed it advisable to publish the report and show that we had not been idle, and then to invite an expression of opinion from the members as to what course they may deem it advisable to pursue. It is useful to have some money in hand as we may at any moment have to incur fairly heavy telegraphic expenses, but we don't want to go on indefinitely piling it up. My own idea is that it would be a graceful act on our part after collecting this year's subscriptions to remit to London anything in excess of \$1,000 as their report shows that their expenses are largely met by heavy donations from various firms interested in China. This is, however, my opinion as an individual but as the disposal of members' funds is naturally a question they must decide for themselves, we invite an expression of opinion on the point. Many local members pay their subscriptions in London, but as the London report gives no list of names it may be that we have not sent some of them reports. We shall be very glad to do so if they will let us know.

On the motion of Mr. MITCHELL, seconded by Mr. HOUGH, it was decided that this matter should be left in the hands of the committee.

The committee, on the proposition of Mr. MITCHELL, seconded by Mr. POLLOCK, was re-elected *en bloc*.

With the CHAIRMAN's expression of thanks, the meeting concluded.

The Japan Mail reports that the directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have presented to Captain John Withalm Eckstrand, on the occasion of his retirement from their employment, a gratuity of twenty thousand yen, in recognition of his long, faithful and efficient services, which date from the time of the company's formation.

WITH THE VOLUNTEERS.

A GRIFFIN'S EXPERIENCES.

Conscious of all my imperfections, I joined the corps. With a rifle in my hand I swore to render service to our King, and having been measured by the tailor for my uniform, I was given a rifle and bayonet, with a collection of other things, and left the Volunteer headquarters with as much nonchalance as I could command in the circumstances. Of course the man in the street could detect that I was a raw recruit, and I fancied there was a smile lurking about the corners of several mouths as I passed acquaintances, but what mattered it! everyone has to go through the mill. Friends were pleased to exercise a pretty wit upon my martial appearance, and many a shaft was directed at me which might have hurt my feelings had my epidermis been as thin as it once was. But words could not daunt me. Alike to the frontal attack of the brutal jester or the more insidious thrust of sarcasm I was impervious, and I had little hesitation in assuring my friends that the Colony was now quite safe, for, like the immortal Bill Adams, was I not armed in its defence, filled with a new-born zeal for military exercises, and determined to quit myself valiantly when the opportunity was given.

Late that evening there was an unwonted movement in my room. Instead of reclining on the sofa with a smoke and a newspaper, I was practising with my weapons of warfare. Standing erect at the open window, I took imaginary pot shots at the Clock Tower. I was not so reckless as one would think, for was it not to be moved anyhow? Then I took to calculating distances, adjusting my sight, and firing at longer range, taking flags and masts and funnels and other things for my targets. By-and-by I got to close quarters. Fixing my bayonet, I played great havoc with the elusive foe which surrounded me, getting the blade well home every time, and tossing the victims over my shoulder as lightly as wool. Once I struck the bed post with a noise that sounded alarming in the stillness of the night, but happily no one in the house was sufficiently alarmed or curious to investigate the cause of the disturbance, and so I proceeded with my deadly work. By-and-by I essayed the more ceremonial work of presenting arms in front of the mirror, but the claims of nature becoming assertive I dropped off to sleep and dreamt of "alarums and excursions" in which I was called upon to take part.

Next evening I found my way to the Parade Ground and took my place with a number of other young men who were being "licked into shape" by a non-commissioned army officer. I wouldn't like to say that he was supercilious or even sarcastic, but he had a knack of making us realise how awkward we were and how much we had to learn. Still it had the merit of keeping us humble, and humility is a virtue not greatly in evidence among our compatriots here. In course of time we were able to distinguish between the limber and the gun, and after a few evenings' drilling we began to have some glimmering of the duties of the various members of a gun crew, though chasing round the Headquarters' Ground with big guns proved rather warm work, inducing a more or less expensive thirst and making one relish the luxury of clean linen. Then came the infantry drill. Though apparently simple, it was surprising how full of snares it was for the unwary. Dropping a rifle on the toes or catching a finger on the trigger taught one to be careful, while a dig in the back from a clumsily handled gun behind provoked the expression of terse and vigorous terms under one's breath. "Shoulder arms" was a command that made many shudder. With little clothing interposed between the rifle and the shoulder painful bruises followed, and many were heard to declare that that part of their body would be padded for the next occasion. And so it was. Towels, undervests, and other articles were employed and the drill was pe formed with greater comfort. After a few nights of such training, came the announcement of the camp, where the instruction would be more detailed and where the fun would be fast and furious.

On the eventful day when the camp opened I appeared on the streets for the first time in my new uniform, and arrayed in all my warlike equipment. It was difficult to feel, like the small boy with his first pair of trousers, that everybody was not gazing at me. But what a sensation my appearance created in "the office." The coolies at the entrance stared. They could not recognise in this man of military mien the unobtrusive individual who passed in and out every day, while the boy, who occasionally condescends to respond to my calls and who has become somewhat familiar asked: "You belong soldier man?" My newly acquired dignity deigned no answer, and I proceeded with my duties as calmly as if there were no camp prospects to anticipate. On the way out the Chinese were visibly impressed and their demeanour was decidedly deferential, while the salute from the Indian watchman was more elaborate than usual. With inflated chest and head erect, I swung down the road; my heavy boots, which I donned for the occasion, making a noise which echoed a long way, even up to the windows of several boarding houses from which peeped smiling feminine faces. The chair and ricksha coolies, as they eyed me laden with rifle and accoutrements, swooped down with wild rushes on what must be a certain fare. Their calculations, however, were not based on a knowledge of the military spirit, which makes light of marches and thinks not of fatigue. With a frown—for was it not an implied insult that I was not inured to exertion?—I bade them begone, and tried to resume the even tenour of my way. But it was not to be. The pantomime had to be re-enacted about every twenty yards, until I got close to Murray Pier, where I found a host of other khaki-clad figures standing in groups of threes and fours, all apparently on good terms with themselves and determined that their stily under canvas should not be particularly dull. Identifying myself with a certain coterie, I heard terrible tales of what a griffin has to go through. There were boisterous performances in the eerie hours of night at which he had to be a passive subject. There were wild orgies at which he had to be a very active subject; when he would have to "melt" dollars galore in paying his footing. And lastly, there were the exhausting tasks imposed on fatigue duty and the dreary experience of going on guard. Though making allowances for exaggeration and the general desire to paint a picturesque tale, on the part of all these brilliant raconteurs, I was conscious of some little impression made by this conversation; but the sinking at my heart was only momentary. If these duffers can go through these experiences and laugh at them, why shouldn't I? And so, "bucking up," as I was commanded, I forgot my fears and revelled in the dubious reminiscences that were told. What fun those fellows must have had at previous camps. Military exercises, though figuring largely in their daily programme, somehow did not appeal to their imaginations as did the misadventures of their comrades, the antics in the canteen and the concert room, and the general frolic of the camp. In a short time I was scrambling on board a launch, and after a pleasant sail of about half an hour I was landed with my company on Stonecutters' Island. Stepping ashore at Stonecutters one felt that the liberty of the subject had been put off for a while. Here were military law and a discipline sterner than we had hitherto been accustomed to, and one's feelings were rather mixed as one began to realise in an indefinite sort of way the character of the place. However we had little time to ponder over our new situation, but were quickly initiated into the meaning of fatigue duty. Tents had to be put in order, bedding arranged, and so on, but happily no one made a burden of it. With the greatest good humour and the merriest of banter, the work was accomplished, and then I was invited to the canteen. What happened then was merely ordinary—though to some it may have appeared extraordinary—and a little later the call of the bugle brought me out to drill for the first time with No. 1 company. That passed over without event, giving each one, however, a healthy appetite for the dinner which was soon due. Then was the time to enjoy the flow of wit and the feast of reason. From 150 voices there came the stentorian shout of

"Boy," and though a small army of waiters were engaged, the claimants for their attentions never seemed to diminish. Of course, everybody wanted to be served at once, and when the impatient ones—whose keen appetites seemed to make the delay greater than it was—burst into one loud prolonged chorus of "Boy" the Celestials only smiled more blandly than ever. Then the musical element hit on an original method of attracting attention. The first man sang out "Boy" to say, low doh, and the others, taking in turn the next higher note, ran up the modulator for about an octave and a half. The effect was even more marked than that created by the chorus, and everybody entered into the humour of the thing. When the soup was served, there was a better temper prevailing, and the attempts to quicken the movements of the waiters assumed different phases, though it could not be said they were particularly successful. Some boys were anxious to please and did not spare any exertion in the performance of their duties under—it must be confessed—very trying circumstances, but the majority could not be complimented on their agility. One poor gunner, wearing an agonised look, besought a score of boys to bring him beef and though each appeared to "savvy," the result was that he was ignored, his comrades, by threats and other means securing the prior attention of "John" when he returned with his hands full. Driven desperate, the Volunteer marched to the head of the mashed where the food was dispensed and obtained what he wanted, but no sooner had he resumed his seat than a score of men in khaki descended upon him each with a plate of the dainty in question and piled them in front of him. The transition from starvation to surfeit proved somewhat embarrassing to the gunner, whose expression of thanks to his comrades for their solicitude on his behalf was distinguished by more invective than perhaps the occasion demanded. Even the Chinamen entered into the humour of that dinner and when asked such searching questions as "What name this," they gave the guarded reply "Just pudding." When a man considered he had a mystery in front of him, it was amusing to watch how he sniffed round it, cut off a small piece, tasted it, masticated it slowly, and finally proclaimed his inability to define the decoction. But lest it be deemed that this spells libel, I must hasten to add that everybody agreed the "chow" was very good, and when we were called to attention on the arrival of the Orderly Officer, there were no complaints to make.

That the first night should be somewhat boisterous is only to be expected. There are old acquaintanceships to be toasted, there are new friendships to be cemented in the time honoured fashion, and what more than that the "Here's fun" or the "Here's to you" or the ordinary "Chin chin" should, by much repetition, lead to a conviviality which was not lacking in demonstrativeness. Of course it must not be supposed that everyone passed the evening in the neighbourhood of the canteen. There were those quieter souls who were content to revel in all the beauty of their picturesque environment, to admire the moonbeams dancing on the rippling water, to gaze with increasing pride on the charming picture presented by the twinkling lights of the city of Victoria against the sombre background of the Peak, and to enjoy the agreeable sensations afforded by the novelty of their situation.

It was some little time after "lights out" that I sought out my tent. When one trips over a tent peg one feels aggrieved. How stupid, you say, to have them so far out. But your feelings are perhaps soothed and perhaps not when some comes to the entrance and says "That's the peg you fell over, old chap." However, your turn comes. You get to your tent, undress in the dark, and stretch yourself on your bed. You are dozing off nicely when some one stumbles over a rope, mutters something, and continues his way. Once again you settle to sleep, but again you are interrupted. This time the wayfarer's steps are not so steady. His foot catches on a peg and down he comes—on your head. The intruder, hesitating between apologies and reproaches, takes himself off, and, relieved of this load, you once more compose yourself. But it is difficult to woo the drowsy goddess when the humming

of the mosquitoes is interspersed with the songsters in some of the tents down the lines, and when some roysterer near at hand bursts into the pathetic appeal "Oh, dry those tears," warbled in a voice hoarse with emotion and other things. At last one falls into a sort of fitful sleep, which is broken by the piercing sounds of the "Reveille." "What five o'clock already," you say, and starting up, make a rush, with the others, for the coffee and biscuits at the stand at the bottom of the slope. "Thank goodness, there is no work," is the general verdict; and after a dip in the briny, we get our tents in order, and wait for the bugle call which has been paraphrased thus: "Come to the cook house door, boys." Feeling on the whole pretty well pleased with myself—for none of the terrible prognostications held out to me had happened—I sat down with my company to breakfast. Again the same freedom and hilarity ruled at table. Jokes and jests were flying on all sides, and as usual our attendants intermittently provoked us to wrath and to smiles. When invited to "pass the grease," you learned to hand over the butter, and when the "cow juice" was requested you knew that the lacteal fluid was meant. Then it was one heard comparisons of the previous night's experiences. One youth complained of a lack of comfort in his quarters and was met by the crushing retort: "Blimey, what did yer expect. Think ye were going to have a feather bed and a punkah?" Reply to this was hopeless.

Rising at 5 o'clock in the morning was at first a novelty, more or less enjoyable according to the temperament of the individual, but I am afraid it came to be regarded as a nuisance. It was all right once you were up, but it was surprising how the beds, though by no means of the softest, seemed to pull in the morning, especially if you or your neighbours had been prolonging the day into the night. More than one complained of having so much day in the night, but on the whole there was a noticeable consideration for others, and the general conduct of the camp might be ranked as good.

In order to save time in the morning one or two old campaigners went to sleep in their uniforms. Perhaps some one might suggest another reason for this, but I will take my affidavit that those fellows were quite capable and could have disrobed had they desired. "Why, it is military etiquette," one would explain, "if the enemy were to come I should be the only one ready to meet them. You (and this was uttered with withering scorn) would look well turning out to meet the foe in your pyjamas. No mufti for me. I am going to sleep in my uniform." He would lie down with his boots on, and perhaps sit up a few minutes later in order to put on his putties. When "reveille" sounded in the morning, he stretched out his hand for his pipe and exclaimed "Ready, aye ready." Only once was he induced to depart from his own standard but the trouble of dressing in the morning was apparently too great to lead him to repeat the experiment.

From one tent in particular there used to come an odour like that from a distillery, and at times the bottle and the glasses were seen in a conspicuous place, as if, in the absence of the owners, to announce the hospitality of which so many partook. But, singular to relate, though the two individuals more closely identified with the whisky bottle were very partial to their "peg" before turning in for the night, they both evinced a strong disinclination to fetch the water. This led to a debate every evening in which each recited the numerous things he had done that day in order to show the other he had been very industrious, but as both were experts in drawing the long bow they would invariably appeal to each other on the score of friendship. "I'll remember you as long as I live if you go down for the water," one would say, to which the other would reply, "There's a good fellow, you get it." Eventually they would set out together a procedure due to each hesitating to leave the whisky bottle in the possession of the other. The inmates of this tent—which was situated on a ridge—earned further distinction by cutting steps to its approach, and what an amount of interest that event aroused. The inmates themselves were occupied the first night in walking up and down the steps until they had

attracted an admiring crowd who gave vent to their commendations in various forms. The favoured ones were invited to ascend, and the engineering feat was appropriately celebrated.

In the course of the day at camp many quaint figures were met. There was one man who had so outgrown his uniform that he had to be rushed off to the tailor at once. His trousers were so tight that he could not get his hands into his pockets, and the man who pushed everything to a logical conclusion declared that if he wished to get anything out of his pockets he would have to take his trousers off! Fortunately things did not come to such a pass. Another interesting character was the man who called himself to attention on the approach of an officer; and the special traits of a very youthful gunner, whose knowledge swamped his colleagues, were hit off by the presentation of a bottle with an appendage which is deemed necessary in infancy.

The reader must not suppose that it was all fun at the camp. On most occasions the drill was very exacting, and when a day's attendance to business had to be sandwiched between the morning and evening work, the majority were ready to confess that they were tired. There was little humour to enliven the work with the guns. Military discipline was preserved, and there was close attention to the instruction given. Still when one man indicated a slight mishap by the expression "the blooming gun is ruptured," there was something of a titter among his companions; and the smile was no less pronounced on the occasion of the amateur gunner, who training, as he thought, the 15 pounder on the house on the slope, was told by the sarcastic sergeant that he would shoot the deer which was grazing two yards off. He had omitted to elevate his gun, but his sighting was beautiful.

This reminds me of my first experience of cannon fire last week. The din assailed one's ears with a horrid shock, causing them to tingle and the head to buzz, while the fumes of cordite filled the nostrils and the smoke the eyes, but after a few flashes and reports one got accustomed to the roar and the noise; and, indeed, several began to thirst for a taste of the genuine article. In a few minutes they usually became normal, and once across the water acquitted themselves as peace-loving citizens do. The mechanism of the Maxim was rather fascinating but its rattle was a terrible nerve destroyer, and a little while in the onerous position of marksman made one relish a change of duty. The general desire to learn and to experience made this fairly easy, and not a few good gun layers were discovered.

For the first time in my life I shot from a rifle. I marched up to the range in some trepidation because I had been told of the terrible bruises which several of my comrades carried as the result of the rifle kicking from the great shock it received. It was hinted that I might even return in such a condition that I would be unrecognisable, and padding was suggested. Disregarding this as unsoldierly, I went up to the target, was given my seven rounds, and instructed how to use the weapon. To my astonishment I hit the target first time, and again and again. I began to get cocky, and thought of eclipsing all records, when lo! a miss. Another followed. Then there was quite a succession of blanks until I felt the marker must have had a grievance against me. No matter how I adjusted my sight, and steadied myself till there was no apparent possibility of the bullet getting wide of the bull's eye, the same old signal was returned. Advice from the friendly instructor led to a slight recovery and I was able to finish with a score that need not be regarded as a reproach. Still I won't tell you what it was.

I had almost forgotten to tell you of the great doings at our sham fight, but that, with a record of a night on guard, will have to come in a future issue.

Viceroy Yuan's administrative reforms, which are to be tried experimentally in Chihli, provide for the abolition of the posts of intendants and prefects, whose duties will be handed over to new departments. Each new department will have a treasurer, a judge, and a captain superintendent of police. In the larger villages assistant magistrates and police inspectors will be stationed.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 20th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE)

A COOK'S CLAIM.

Ip Cho, cook and houseboy, sued M. Grice, an assistant in Messrs. McEwan, Frickle and Co., for \$14, wages due.

The defendant denied owing the amount. Ip Cho, declared, said he was boy and cook to the defendant.

His Lordship—Why weren't you paid for September?

Witness—Because I gave notice on 1st September that I was going to leave defendant's service.

His Lordship—And why didn't you go on the 1st October?

Witness—Defendant detained me because he was moving into new premises.

His Lordship—What happened on the 10th October?

Witness—I asked him for the balance due to me. He got very much annoyed and assaulted me.

The defendant was then put in the box and swore that the plaintiff was engaged by him as boy and cook at a salary of \$12 a month.

His Lordship—He says he gave you notice on the 1st September.

Defendant—No, my Lord, he did not do so.

His Lordship—Do you owe him \$2 for September.

Defendant—I said I would keep that amount out of his salary as he was not doing his work properly.

His Lordship—What is the meaning of his claim for October wages?

Defendant—I cannot understand it, my Lord.

His Lordship—When did he leave you?

Defendant—On the 10th of the month.

His Lordship—Did he agree that you should cut him \$2?

Defendant—For this month. I don't think he did for September.

His Lordship—He says you assaulted him this month.

Defendant—It is untrue.

His Lordship—Why did he leave on the 10th of the month?

Defendant—He had not been doing his work properly, and I reprimanded him severely. He then said—"You had better get another boy to do your work; I will go." I have not seen him since.

His Lordship—You had better give him \$2 for September.

Defendant—I am quite willing to do that, my Lord.

His Lordship—Very well. He will get \$2, but he won't get his costs.

Monday, 23rd October.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN INJUNCTION GRANTED.

The North British Rubber Company, Edinburgh, through their local agents, Messrs. Humphreys & Co., applied for an injunction to restrain the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company from parting with the possession of 15 cases of rubber shoes bearing what were alleged to be imitations of their trade marks.

Mr. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) said he appeared for the complainants who were moving *ex parte* under the provisions of the code for an injunction to restrain the defendants from parting with possession of 15 cases of rubber shoes bearing spurious representations of complainants' trade marks. The writ of summons was issued on the 19th instant and the notice of motion on the 20th instant. Mr. Pollock read the affidavit by Mr. W. G. Humphreys, of 16 Queen's Road Central who stated he had received instructions from complainants to stop the sale of rubber shoes,

bearing spurious representations of the firm's trade marks which had been registered in the colony.

His Lordship remarked that the trade marks on the shoes did not exactly correspond with the description in the affidavit.

Mr. Pollock submitted that all the material facts were there.

From the affidavit it further appeared that the rubber shoes in question had been consigned to Messrs. Jorge and Co., Zetland Street, against whom there was another action. Mr. Humphreys had written to the secretary of the defendant Company, who had, in reply, expressed his inability to comply with his request not to part with possession.

His Lordship—Does anybody appear on the other side?

Mr. Pollock—No, my lord; this motion is *ex parte*.

Counsel read other affidavits by Mr. Cecil Humphreys and Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, from the latter of which, he said, his Lordship would see that the defendant company required them to make some application to the court in connection with that matter and they were now applying to his Lordship under the provisions of the code.

His Lordship—What are you moving for now?

Mr. Pollock—We are moving in terms of the notice on the paper. We are entirely in your Lordship's hands. We are moving for an absolute order. The Godown Company require us to move for an order. If your Lordship made an absolute order, that would be served on the Godown Company, and if they saw any reason to come to court they could do so.

In reply to his Lordship, Mr. Pollock dealt with the necessity for taking such action and mentioned that there was an action against Messrs. Jorge & Co., which firm had purchased from some other firm those rubber shoes bearing a spurious imitation of complainants' trade marks; and the injunction was sought to have the goods returned to them or kept from the market. The Godown Company by asking for an order of the court for them to act upon had insisted on those legal proceedings, and probably the best course would be to grant complainants an absolute order which would be served upon the Godown Company. Then it would be competent for them at any time, assuming they wished to take any further action in the matter, for the latter to apply to have the order set aside. The other action was against Messrs. Jorge and Company.

His Lordship—Supposing it turns out that these cases do not contain rubber shoes as stated.

Mr. Pollock—Then, of course, we should have to suffer for it.

His Lordship—There is manifestly a *prima facie* case of infringement, and it is clearly a case for an absolute injunction. If the injunction is granted that disposes of the action?

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

His Lordship—Therefore you are practically entitled to judgment on the writ?

Mr. Pollock—Practically so, my lord.

The question of costs was mentioned by Mr. Pollock, but his Lordship said this question would arise on any application respecting the injunction and he would reserve his decision on that point till then.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

YIK WING *EX PARTE* MA FAI NAM.

Mr. Pollock said he appeared on behalf of the bankrupt who had been committed to prison on a warrant pending a criminal prosecution.

Mr. Looker, who appeared for 22 creditors, said they had had no official notice of that application, and he thought it would have been proper to inform those who were representing the creditors.

In reply to his Lordship, Mr. Looker added that debtor had been arrested on the 3rd August and he was examined subsequently. Then they asked his Lordship to make an order for his prosecution and his Lordship adjourned it for consideration.

Mr. Pollock held that there must be some reasonable limit to the time a man was kept in prison. Debtor had been arrested in the expectation that criminal proceedings would be instituted. No proceedings had been taken

and he now asked for his release. Two months has elapsed since the arrest of the bankrupt was ordered with a view to his prosecution, and as no prosecution had in fact been instituted it would be unreasonable that he should remain longer under arrest. Ample time had elapsed for the purpose of prosecuting him, assuming that there was any serious intention to prosecute him.

His Lordship—I think I refused bail.

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

His Lordship—That strengthens your case?

Mr. Pollock—Yes, he has been actually under arrest.

His Lordship—Quite so.

Mr. Looker opposed the application.

Mr. Pollock thought his friend had no *locus standi*.

His Lordship—In whose hands is the prosecution?

Mr. Wakeman—It has been referred to the Law Officers.

His Lordship—What decision have they arrived at?

Mr. Wakeman was understood to say the Law Officers had decided there was no case for a criminal prosecution.

His Lordship—You support the motion?

Mr. Wakeman—No, my lord.

His Lordship—Who is to bring the case before me?

Mr. Wakeman—It has been submitted to the Law Officers.

His Lordship—I should have thought that when they decided not to prosecute, the dismissal of the bankrupt would have followed as a matter of course.

Mr. Looker then stated that his Lordship had adjourned the case in order that the creditors might formulate the charges against debtor, but it was considered unnecessary for them to do so if the Attorney-General and Crown Solicitor had to prosecute.

His Lordship—Now they have declined to do it.

Mr. Looker admitted that it put them in an awkward position.

His Lordship—Yes, I can hardly order a prosecution.

Mr. Looker asked that the court should order the man to remain under arrest and to detain the books until he came up for his discharge. He has been adjudicated a bankrupt and may apply at any time for his discharge.

His Lordship—Is the public examination concluded?

Mr. Looker—It has been practically closed.

A discussion followed as to whether debtor had committed an offence or a misdemeanour, at the end of which,

Mr. Pollock said that the Law Officers having decided there was no case for criminal prosecution, he was entitled to asked for his discharge.

His Lordship said he did not wish to express any views on the merits of the case.

Mr. Looker said that he had not had time to consult his clients but knew they desired the application to be opposed. They would have already prosecuted the debtor privately but for the fact that it had been held by the Attorney-General that they could not do so.

His Lordship—If I acquiesced in this motion I should be supporting the contention that there is no power to privately prosecute which I am not at all prepared to do in the absence of further information. I thought the power to prosecute was open to all. I should not like to be held to acquiesce but I agree that there is hardship in this man being kept in prison.

Mr. Looker—What we ask for is that there being extremely strong cause to believe that the prisoner has committed an offence he should be detained in gaol or required to present himself for his release under the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

Mr. Pollock—My friend asks your Lordship to keep this man in prison because he may have to put him into prison later on.

In giving his decision his Lordship said—I could not make the order for his release conditional on the bankrupt coming up for his discharge under the Bankruptcy Ordinance. With regard to the other matter, I think it is of considerable importance. I doubt whether I am justified in keeping a man in prison until the doubt in my mind is satisfied. I don't think I should be interfering with the rights of creditors, if they intend to prosecute,

by ordering his discharge. This man has been in prison much longer than has been necessary if the court had not been in vacation. Directly the decision of the Law Officers had been obtained, I think he should have been released. I certainly could not take any action with regard to ordering a prosecution or expressing any opinion on that subject. If the creditors think it desirable to raise the question of whether they have the power to prosecute now, I think there are means whereby that question can be raised. I don't think I am justified in keeping the bankrupt in prison any longer and he will be discharged.

The question of costs was reserved pending any further steps the Official Receiver may decide to take.

Wednesday, 25th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

Tam Man Sam, of No. 19 Jervois Street, sued Tam Yan and Cheung San Pang, liquidators of the Sai Kai Kung Yick Po Company, Ltd., for \$1,000, being as to \$500 for the return of money deposited by the plaintiff with the defendants on the 2nd June, 1905, in part payment of the purchase money of the business, property and effects of the Sai Kai Kung Yick Po Co., Ltd.; and as to the balance of \$500 for damages for breach by the defendants of the said contract.

Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the plaintiff, and Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Beavis stated that pleadings were ordered and had been filed in this case. It would appear on these that the whole point at issue was whether the plaintiff did or did not tender the deposit portion of the purchase money as alleged by him and denied by the defendants? Did the plaintiff by his acts repudiate the contract? If he did not he was entitled to the return of his deposit, and also to damages. Supposing the defendants were able to prove that they had failed to comply with the stipulation regarding portion of the purchase money, they would prove that they made every effort to pay the whole of the purchase money.

His Lordship—The case has worked itself down to a question of fact.

Mr. Looker—It is a question of fact. The plaintiff refused to pay the deposit and repudiated the contract.

Tam Man Sam, declared, said he was present at the meeting of the company in question when his tender for the purchase was accepted.

His Lordship—Are you a shareholder in this paper?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Looker—And a director too, my Lord.

Continuing, witness said the document before the court stated that the stock-in-trade of the paper was worth \$18,734; the books of the company represented about \$8,000. When his tender was accepted a note was made in the minute book of the company, and an advertisement inserted in the paper. Likewise a minute of sale was made by the defendants, which witness signed. More writing had been added to the conditions of sale since he signed the book; one page had been taken out and another substituted.

His Lordship—Why do the defendants want to get out of the contract? Have they sold the paper to somebody else?

Witness—I don't know what their object is, but I believe they want to run the paper themselves.

Witness, continuing, said the minute he signed was as follows:—"A meeting was held in the Company's office on the afternoon of 2nd June, 1905, when all the assets, stock-in-trade, goodwill and other things as specified were sold to me for the sum of \$9,270, as I was the highest bidder. On and after the 3rd June all the expenses in connection with the company were to be borne by me, and within 48 hours one-fourth of the purchase money was to be paid." On the following day, Sunday, he went to the company's office, where he saw Cheung San Pang, and tendered an amount of the

purchase money. The defendant said he could not accept it on the Sabbath day; he was going to church. Witness pressed him, but he was put off till the afternoon. When witness saw him then he told the defendant he had better accept the money before the expiration of the appointed time for payment, but the defendant replied that he intended to keep the Sabbath day, and refused to accept the money.

Cross-examined—He was a director and, at one time, the editor of this paper. It was decided to sell the business because the financial position of the company was not a good one. They owed \$9,000 odd and there was no money to pay. Witness's was the only tender that exceeded the amount of the debts. At the time of tendering he had \$500 to pay the deposit, and could have raised the whole of the purchase money that day.

The evidence in support of the plaintiff's claim having concluded, the case was adjourned until Monday.

Thursday, 26th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

ANOTHER PROMISSORY NOTE ACTION.

Woo Yue Shing Tong sued Wong Ping Lun for \$1,019.40, being money advanced to defendant on a promissory note. Mr. C. T. Dix appeared for plaintiff, but defendant was not represented.

On a previous occasion Mr. Dixon had informed his Lordship that defendant was dead and his Lordship had asked Mr. Howell (bailiff) to make inquiries at the shop in which defendant was said to be a partner. Mr. Howell now informed his Lordship that he has made inquiries regarding the defendant. He learned that the man had been a partner in the bakery mentioned but that he had overdrawn his share to the extent of \$3,000, and that, so far as the people in the shop knew, he was dead.

Mr. Dixon called plaintiff to prove the debt and the receipt of the promissory note.

His Lordship—You are suing the man and not the bakery?

Mr. Dixon—I am suing the man as partner of the Ching Wo bakery.

His Lordship—You cannot get judgment against the Ching Wo.

Mr. Dixon—I am asking for judgment against the Ching Wo, where defendant is a partner.

His Lordship—I will give you judgment against defendant but not against the Ching Wo.

The same plaintiff sued the Ching Wo Bakery for \$600, money advanced on the 9th May under a promissory note.

Judgment with costs was entered for plaintiff.

Friday, 27th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

WAT TAI L. JAPANESE LAUNDRY CO.

The plaintiff sued for \$170. He said he had been employed by the defendant company for six and a half months, and he supplied them with provisions for which he had not been paid. Both parties submitted books and his Lordship sent them to the shroff, who would report to him when the case was called next Friday.

FUNG ON v. IP YING.

Plaintiff claimed \$22.11, the balance of wages due to him.

His Lordship—You have entered the amount for \$23.81.

Plaintiff—Yes, that includes costs (laughter). His Lordship—You have not done that right (laughter).

Plaintiff stated he was a painter employed by defendant, but left his service on 26th September. The total amount owing him for wages was \$75.16, of which defendant had paid \$53.5, leaving a balance of \$22.11.

His Lordship—Your dates and figures are all wrong.

Plaintiff—I got another man to prepare the book for me.

His Lordship—Well, you must have told him wrong.

Defendant submitted his book which showed that the total wages to which plaintiff was entitled was \$69.35 of which \$56.58 had been paid, leaving a balance of \$12.90.

His Lordship (to plaintiff)—You had better take that. You have apparently told the man who prepared the book for you a different story to what you told me.

Judgment for the amount indicated.

AN ALLEGED CHINESE MARRIAGE.

At the Magistracy on the 21st inst., Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the senior magistrate gave his decision in the case in which Oldorico Neeves, a signalman on Green Island, was charged with unlawfully and knowingly harbouring a Chinese woman Mun Mi Kwai, married to Cheung Pong, according to the laws or customs of China, and who had left the protection of her husband. His Worship said—The defendant was charged before me with unlawfully, knowingly and without reasonable excuse harbouring a Chinese woman named Mun Mi Kwai, married to the complainant, Cheung Pong, according to the laws or customs of China, and who had left the protection of her husband contrary to section 2 of Ordinance 19 of 1903. The first question which I have to decide is whether there was a valid Chinese marriage between the complainant and the said Mun Mi Kwai, alleged to have been celebrated on the 10th January, 1898. On the evidence adduced on this point the following facts have been proved to my satisfaction: That there was a marriage contract between the parties known as the *Lai Shu* (禮書) and which was handed to the mother of the complainant. That at the same time there was given a further document known as the *Sam Toi* (三代) "three generations." This sets out the names of the bride's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and also the surnames of the bride's mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. It was also proved that presents were sent to the family of the bride, and also that she came to the complainant's house in the usual bridal chair. Both in Parker's "Comparative Chinese Family Law," and in von Mollendorff's "Family Law of the Chinese," are set out the different preliminary steps to a valid Chinese marriage, but there is no statement to the effect if all or which of these steps are absolutely indispensable. Evidence was called by the prosecution, and it was proved to my satisfaction that the two documents the *Lai Shu* (禮書), and the *Sam Toi* (三代), are sufficient to constitute a valid Chinese marriage. It was contended by the defence that these two documents were forgeries. On the evidence adduced I find as a fact that these documents are genuine. With respect to the question of harbouring the wife of the complainant, evidence was called and it was proved to my satisfaction that on the 27th June, 1905, the defendant and the wife of the complainant, Mun Mi Kwai, were married in a Roman Catholic Church in Nam Tau. The following defences were set up by defendant; (a) absence of a *mens rea*; (b) that the Chinese marriage was not a valid marriage according to the laws or customs of China; and (c) that the said Mun Mi Kwai left the complainant because of his cruelty to her and because of his failure properly to maintain her. As to the question of *mens rea*, there is the evidence of Sergeant Watt who was sent out to find the said Mun Mi Kwai, reported missing by her mother. Sergeant Watt saw the defendant on or about the 19th March, 1905, and told him that the woman was married, and that it would be a serious offence if he was found with her. I am, moreover, of opinion that in the present Ordinance, a *mens rea* is not of the essence of the offence created. The object of the Ordinance being to prevent an invasion of marital rights it must be supposed that the Legislature intended that the wrongdoer should act at his peril. With respect to the defence that the Chinese marriage was not a valid marriage according to the laws or customs of China it was contended that the complainant had another wife at the time he married the said Mun Mi Kwai. I find as a fact on the evidence on this point that the complainant was not already

married on the date that he married the said Mun Mi Kwai. I, therefore, hold that there was a valid Chinese marriage between the complainant Cheung Pong and the said Mun Mi Kwai. With respect to the defence that the said Mun Mi Kwai left the complainant because of his cruelty, I am satisfied on the evidence that excessive cruelty was used by the complainant towards her and that she ran away in consequence of such cruelty. It was not proved to my satisfaction that the complainant failed properly to maintain the said Mun Mi Kwai. Section 3 of the Ordinance is as follows:—"A person who receives or harbours a Chinese woman who has left her husband because of his cruelty to her, or because of his failure properly to maintain her, shall not be deemed to have received or harboured such married woman without excuse." By this section it is an absolute defence to proceedings under this Ordinance if it is found as a fact that a woman has left her husband because of his cruelty. My finding is, therefore, for the defendant, and I order his discharge.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

19th October.

THE CANTON SCANDAL: MORE SEIZURES.

On the 15th inst. Viceroy Shum received information that Chau Tung-Sang possessed some valuable leasehold properties in a village close by Fatsan. On the following day His Excellency ordered a deputy to proceed to the town with instructions to work in conjunction with the prefect and the civil and military authorities there to effect the seizure. The deputy proceeded with the sub-prefect, two military officers and thirty soldiers to Long Hang Village, in the Wong-Ting-Sze district, where they sealed up the following properties:—
(a.) One large ancestral temple called the Wing-Luk-Tai-Fu (i.e. ancestral temple belonging to a mandarin of the 2nd degree).
(b.) One large family residence (not occupied).
(c.) A beautiful summerhouse with a large garden attached to it called the Yew Shan Shue Sut. As a sequel to the proclamation issued by the Viceroy of Canton, calling upon the people to give information with regard to properties known to belong to Chau Tung-Sang or to others implicated in the Canton scandal, the Chamber of Commerce has now furnished the Canton prefect with a long list containing 26 houses located in different towns of the province and valued at about 100,000 taels. The Viceroy has issued orders to the magistrates of the different districts interested to effect the seizures at once.

THE BOYCOTT.

Yesterday afternoon the Kwong-chai hospital received a telegram from the boycott committee in San Francisco making enquiries regarding the arrest of Ma Poon and Ha on account of boycotting American goods. They wish to know if the men have been released or not. The Kwong-chai Hospital has also received a further contribution of \$5,000 to assist the boycott.

SNAKES.

A shop named Po-Hou-Lam in Wai-Oi street, near the Kwong-chow prefect's yamen, does a profitable business in snake-tonic, a medicine much appreciated by Chinese. Peasants bring regular supplies of live snakes to this shop. On the 16th instant several baskets of a very venomous variety were brought. Somehow or other two of the baskets had been carelessly closed and the captives escaped and soon found a comfortable hiding place under the street slabs. Consternation reigned for a time in the neighbourhood and people were greatly alarmed at the prospect of being bitten by one of these dangerous reptiles. Nobody dared to cross the street at night. On the night of the 17th inst., however, a stranger happening to pass there was bitten. Having learnt that snakes had escaped from the Po-Hou-Lam shop, he called for a meeting at an adjoining temple, and it was there decided by the neighbours that the shop, being responsible for the accident, would have to pay the medical expenses of the injured man to have his

wound cured. It was agreed that the shop would be notified that no live snakes would be allowed to be brought there in future.

NANNING NOT OPEN.

It is rumoured that Viceroy Shum has given orders to the Commissioner of Customs at Wuchow to stop all foreign owned steam launches that have hitherto been trading between Wuchow and Nanning from going to the latter port.

ANOTHER RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

In the afternoon of the 17th instant a breakdown occurred on the engine of a train that had left Shek-Wai-Tong for Fatsan. The breakdown occurred near the Five-eyed Bridge station. The up train from Fatsan was requested to carry the news to Shek-Wai-Tong and ask for assistance. A train containing the necessary implements for repairs was despatched from that station but, failing to slacken speed in time, could not stop and ran into the stationary train. Many people are said to have been injured, though fortunately none mortally.

19th October.

BACK FROM THIBET.

His Excellency Tong Shao Yi, High Commissioner of the Imperial Chinese Mission to Thibet and India, arrived here on the 17th inst. by the s.s. *Hankow*. I gather that His Excellency did not stop in Hongkong as he was afraid that the calls of his many friends at that port and the consequent fatigue would have involved too great a strain on his failing health. He came to take a couple of days' rest and has been living in a flower-boat moored alongside the Dutch-folly Port. His Excellency left for Shanghai this afternoon by the China Merchants' s.s. *Kwang-tah*.

THE CANTON SCANDAL.

It is rumoured here that Prince Ching has wired to Viceroy Shum requesting him to be lenient towards Chau Tung Sang and not to take extreme measures. This intervention is attributed to the fact that Chau was a pupil of Prince Ching (門生).

CANTON MINT.

Mr. Edward Wyon's contract with the Mint authorities is about to expire. I understand the Provincial Treasurer has advised Viceroy Shum to retain the services of Mr. Wyon, who has done valuable work and whose experience makes him the fittest man to run the concern. Mr. Wyon is very popular with all hands at the Mint.

OFFENCES ALLEGED AGAINST A "FRENCH" MISSIONARY.

One of the local papers published yesterday the following: A French Missionary in the Po-Ning district named Fan-Mau-Chui, relying upon the support of the French Government and his personal influence as a member of the French Missionary Society has been guilty of grave misconduct. The magistrate of that district has memorialized Viceroy Shum requesting His Excellency to communicate with the French Consul and ask for the arrest of the missionary in question. It is reported on the other hand that the missionary has petitioned his Consul to defend his cause and to contradict the statements of the Po-Ning magistrate, adding that the magistrate was not performing his duties in a proper and impartial manner. Viceroy Shum in his report to the Consul stated that the missionary's brutality has been the cause of the death of a man in that district. This missionary is said to have behaved himself in a very improper manner on various occasions and that a whole series of misdeeds could be ascribed to him. All the people in the district are ready to bear testimony to that effect. By accusing the magistrate of not performing his duties in a proper manner the missionary was simply endeavouring to extricate himself from the tight corner in which he finds himself. The Viceroy, continuing, says he cannot allow such things and that if the matter was dropped it will rouse the anger of the people and might lead to serious troubles. His Excellency requests the Consul to communicate the matter to Bishop Mui and ask for the missionary's expulsion from the district.

A GOOD VICEROY.

The *Sze-Man-Po* publishes a very eulogistic article about Viceroy Shum. It says that His Excellency enjoys the unbounded confidence of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China. It speaks highly of his undoubted integrity, and that although His Excellency has cashiered hundreds of officials and is spoken of as being unusually severe, all his acts are justifiable and must be ascribed to his desire to cleanse the Augean Stables of Mandarinism and that it is for the ultimate good of the Empire. Moreover, Viceroy Shum is ever ready to recognise merit and capability and has promoted only those officials who were deserving of promotion. The appointment of the new Governor of Kwang-Si and the Kwang-Tung Literary Chancellor were made on Viceroy Shum's recommendations. His Excellency enjoys the unbounded confidence of the Throne.

"DOG EAT DOG."

A man surnamed Wong, a native of Lo-Po-Sze, was a pirate chief in his younger days and had to seek shelter abroad some twenty years ago to evade capture, a price having been set on his head.

Wong has amassed a considerable fortune abroad and had returned to his native district some time ago. The local robbers, hearing of his wealth, have raided his house, carrying away thousands of dollars worth of valuables and money and have also abducted his only son. They are asking \$10,000 for his ransom.

The district people see in the occurrence the hand of Fate, decreeing that he shall be punished as he has sinned. The news of Wong's troubles have been received with the greatest equanimity by his countrymen and neighbours.

23rd October.

HIGHWAYMEN.

Yesterday a wealthy Chinaman was held up near Shaho by half a dozen robbers armed to the teeth. Although the unfortunate victim was accompanied by numerous servants, none of them attempted to resist. They were divested of all they had with them, and those who were attired in silks were left on the roads very poorly clad.

VIRGINIAN TOBACCO.

The Chinese having decided to boycott Wills' cigarettes on the ground that the tobacco is of American origin, an enterprising Japanese firm has placed on the market so-called Japanese cigarettes which are made nevertheless with Virginia leaf. The new brand is finding a ready sale and has come to stay.

THE BOYCOTT.

The following is a translation of a notification circulated through the medium of the local papers and distributed here to-day. It is headed in large characters:—"Notification to exhort the people of our country to abstain from purchasing American goods. In devising a scheme for our brothers it is as if we devised it for our sons and grandsons." The text offers a better example of composition than some of the boycott literature has done. In part it is eloquent. Reminding the people of America's faults, and of the progress of the retaliation up to date, the manifesto says:—"Our ideas are good and the method adopted efficient. This is the first time in modern times that the Chinese have shown so much patriotism and we ought to be very grateful to Mr. Tran Hui-Hing, of Shanghai, for calling upon the four hundred millions of our countrymen to unite together and to be of one mind and body. The people are exhorted to be patient and stand firm. This is all fair play and within common sense. This is a serious turning point in the history of our race and is the moment to test our love for our country. Shall we become weaker or stronger? Whether the sons of Han shall die out and their country be wiped out of the world must be decided now. Everyone who claims to be a Chinaman must take the oath to do his utmost to preserve the integrity and rights of his country." It then proceeds to supply fitting epithets for those mercenary Chinese who have trafficked with the Americans, evading the boycott; and assures them that the spirit of the late Fung-Har-Wai will haunt them; and that their sons and grandsons, if they do not die prematurely, will only live to dissipate their ill-gotten gains.

Canton, 24th October.

NEW PREFECT FOR CANTON.

It is reported that Viceroy Shum has memorialized the Throne recommending the appointment of the Sin-Hing Prefect, Tau-Ling, alias Tau-Yu-Sam, to the prefecture of Canton. It is said that he will arrive here shortly to take up his post. Tau-Yu-Sam is a man over seventy years of age, and consequently weak and unsteady. This is well known in official circles. Mistakes are bound to occur in the performance of the duties of such an important post.

A PAWNSHOP GONE A-BEGGING.

The Fuk-Hing pawnshop, in which Chau-Tung-Sang was largely interested, having attempted to erase certain entries from its account books, has been seized by order of Viceroy Shum. The Viceroy would have like to confiscate all the capital but this is impossible as the pawnshop contains 10,000 taels worth of redeemable articles belonging to the people whose right it is to take them back by producing the pawn tickets and paying in the necessary amounts. His Excellency has endeavoured to find somebody willing to run the pawnshop. All those who have been approached have so far refused.

A FACTORY INVOLVED

It having been discovered that Chau-Tit-Sai was the proprietor of a half interest in the Tai-Yau-Cheung factory at Fatshan, Viceroy Shum has ordered the local magistrate to make an enquiry into the matter. On the 21st inst., at 7 o'clock, the manager of the factory and a few foks were arrested and immediately tried in the magistrate's yamen. A report of the proceedings has been sent to Viceroy Shum, and the Fatshan authorities are now awaiting His Excellency's decision in the matter.

A BATCH OF EXECUTIONS.

On the 22nd inst. the Nam-Hoi magistrate, acting under instructions from Viceroy Shum, sent four prisoners to the Tien-chi-ma-Tau execution ground to be there beheaded. Seven prisoners sent by the Fun-Yu magistrate were likewise despatched. Amongst those executed was Hui-Piu-Lin, who was recently extradited from Macao.

"FOR VALOUR"

Viceroy Shum has recommended for promotion over four hundred officials who have taken part in the campaign for the suppression of the Kwangsi rebellion. Strange to say most of the officials recommended belong to the Civil department. They did all the fighting it appears.

CONTRABAND CARTRIDGE-MAKERS.

In the Chuen-mi Village, near Fatshan, clandestine cartridge-making has been going on for some time. The small factory has, however, been discovered and seven men arrested by the Chok-Pi Soldiery. They have been sent to Canton for trial. The punishment for this crime, according to the Chinese code, is death.

FANTAN IN HONAM.

A certain B.A., named Hu-Ping-Nam, having reported to Viceroy Shum that whereas hitherto no fantan houses existed on the Honam side of the city, seventeen houses have recently been opened, and that rows have ensued and several lives lost, Viceroy Shum has replied that the provincial judge has received instructions to order the immediate closing of the seventeen houses as they had no right to be opened.

OLO CUSTOM.

Viceroy Shum has instructed all the military and civil officials under his jurisdiction to wear their winter hats and uniforms from the 24th inst. There is no fixed date for this change, but it is the custom that the highest official should select each year the day on which the change is to be made.

HOUSE IN STEAMER.

On the 16th inst. I reported that the s.s. *Kwong-chow* ran into a house on Honam which collapsed into the river. It appears that the Imperial Maritime Customs authorities here notified the owner of the property on several occasions during the last three months to pull down the building as it was protruding too far, and was an obstruction to navigation on the river. After the accident occurred the landlord reported the matter to the Customs authorities and claimed \$500 damages. The Customs have dismissed his case and informed him that it was very fortunate for him that the

steamer *Kwong-chow* undertook the work of demolition on his behalf as, otherwise he would have been heavily fined for not complying within a reasonable time with the notices that had been served on him by the Customs authorities. The landlord looked very sheepish over the affair; but consoled himself at the thought that it did not cost him anything to pull the building down; the steamer having performed the work thoroughly and well.

THE SINS OF THE FATHERS.

In connection with the imprisonment of Chau-Tung-Sang's concubines and children, although strictly speaking Viceroy Shum is within his rights in applying to the fullest extent the powers conferred on him by precedent and law, not a few people are calling him harsh. His Excellency, who is a progressive official and who has taken a fair share in the reformation of the Chinese code, was the last man expected to show such old-fashioned severity. The law applied in this case is centuries old. It is in keeping with the saying that the children shall atone for their fathers' sins. It is true that in the case of children in tender years it is seldom applied.

Chau was in Government employ over twenty years ago. Viceroy has succeeded Viceroy since Chau retired from office. The responsibility passed on to other shoulders; and after so many years a claim is made for 3,000,000 taels alleged to have been subtracted from the Government coffers. All Chau's properties are seized, his relatives suffer loss likewise, and his wives and children are thrown into prison, there to await the Viceroy's decision. Such proceedings seem to carry us back to mediæval ages. Viceroy Shum should release at once the helpless members of Chau's family, who are totally ignorant of his affairs, and who have not been a party to any crime whatever.

SELLING PASSPORTS.

On the 10th instant I reported that amongst the charges contained in She-Ching Kuk's petition one referred to the selling of passports to artisans and students. I have since been informed that the charge made is that of selling the passports given for students and artisans free of charge to go to the United States. These, it is said, were sold to labourers by a broker employed in a shipping firm in Hongkong, and not, as stated, by Lu-Chee, alias Li-Lum-Kwai, who has no connection whatever with the former.

Canton, 25th October.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY: A NEW SENSATION.

It is reported that the Peking Government has ordered Viceroy Chang-Chih-Tung to refund (sic) the 10,000,000 taels which he has borrowed from the Hongkong Government. The local papers, commenting on the above news, express their surprise at such a step being taken by the Central Government authorities. The Chinese Government having decided to expropriate the American Development Co's railway concession, had to borrow the money somewhere. If Chang-Chih-Tung was not authorized to make this loan he has taken a great responsibility upon himself. It is hardly possible that the loan could have been obtained without the consent of the Peking Government. If the above news is true, and Chang-Chih-Tung was authorized to raise this important loan, the decision of the Peking Government is surprising in the extreme; for they are practically breaking their word. It is also reported that Chang-Chih-Tung has refused to be a director of the Yuet Han Railway, and that he has recommended Tong-Shao-Yi and Liang-Shing to be joint directors of the concern.

[The foregoing is published practically unedited, as it seems to suggest extraordinary vacillation at Peking. By substituting the word "refuse" for "refund," it would be intelligible. There must be a misunderstanding somewhere. Possibly it is merely a réchauffé of the story told by the Tokyo *Asahi*, two or three weeks ago, which ran: "In Government circles (Peking) the loan is adversely criticized, and the Department of Commerce has ordered Chang-Chih-Tung to repay the loan speedily and to refrain from contracting other loans"—Ed.]

CHAU-TUNG SANG'S CASE.

The Koong Yik drug firm have managed to obtain the release of their premises, seized by

the Viceroy. It appears that a number of commission merchants, connected in no way whatever with Chau-Tung-Sang's affairs, had a great quantity of valuable merchandise stored in the premises of the above drug shop. They have petitioned Viceroy Shum and have subscribed the 30,000 taels demanded for the release of the premises seized.

With regard to the Koong On and Fook On pawnshops, which I reported had also been seized, the Viceroy has now issued an order to the effect that all pawned articles must be redeemed within two months from date by paying half interest on the amounts received. All articles not redeemed within the specified time will be disposed of at the discretion of His Excellency.

A letter has been received here by relatives from Chau-Tung-Sang's twelfth concubine, who informs them that she left Peking unmolested with all her children and servants. She took away all her luggage and was not interfered with in any way during her departure from the capital. She adds that she is coming back to Kwangtung. She apparently does not know yet what has happened to the unfortunate members of Chau's family here and will no doubt change her mind when she reaches Shanghai. It is curious to note however, that while even servants are arrested here she should have been permitted to leave Peking. The orders carried out by Viceroy Shum are said to have been issued at Peking. It is strange that the same proceedings were not simultaneously taken at both places, as the presence of Chau's concubine and children in Peking must have been known to the authorities there.

Following the seizure of the Tam-Yin-Kok Club, somebody informed the Viceroy that a quantity of furniture had been removed from the premises prior to the seizure. It appears that an accountant, surnamed Kan, had done the shifting. Lee-chee being acquainted with the fact, caused the furniture to be taken back to the club at once. This was reported to the Viceroy who was quite satisfied and, seeing that everything has been returned, will not press the matter further as far as the members of the club are concerned.

The value of the coal seized at Honam and which, in a previous letter, I set down at \$100,000 worth is worth considerably more. I am informed that the lowest figure would set its value at \$400,000. The boxes and trunks found in Chau-Tung-Sang's and Chau-Tit-Sai's houses have been opened at the Sin-Hau-Kuk's offices in the presence of different officials deputed by the Viceroy. Some were found to be empty but most of them contained valuable articles. There was found a complete silver tea set, curios, silk clothing, etc., which had been prepared for the wedding of one of Chau's daughters. The value of all the contents was estimated at 60,000 taels.

HONGKONG PRISONER EXECUTED.

Li-Fak-Hoi, one of the petty officers under Admiral Li-Tsun, and who was recently extradited from Hongkong, was beheaded yesterday by order of Viceroy Shum. Li marched to the execution ground with great courage and dignity. He showed no fear. He addressed the following words to the officials deputed to carry out the Viceroy's orders: "I have surrendered myself and I sincerely regret it. Capital punishment has been meted to me for a paltry offence. Had I foreseen this I would have turned into a pirate chief and would have committed a crime proportionate to the sentence passed on me." Li died bravely. His family have claimed from the military officials his body for burial.

VICEREGAL BANQUET.

Viceroy Shum will give a banquet at the Sam Kuan Chi (the three genii temple) to the literary chancellors, Chu-Cho-Man, whose term has expired, and Yu-Sik-Mui, the newly appointed chancellor. Most of the high officials have been invited to attend the feast.

THE TARTAR-GENERAL.

The Acting Tartar-General Shing-Ta-Gen has received a wire from Shanghai advising him of the Tartar-General's return. His Excellency has deputed officials to meet him at Hongkong where he is expected to arrive by the s.s. *Kwan Tai* within the next few days.

CANTON WATER WORKS.

Some time ago I reported that Viceroy Shum decided to establish water-works in Canton. His Excellency has now appointed Taotai Chu Wing-Cho and prefect Chan-Mong-Tsang to proceed to Shanghai to engage the services of a British Engineer, Mr. Young, to carry the scheme through.

COLLISION.

A collision occurred on the 23rd inst. between the *Hung-Hung* steam launch and a passenger boat which was conveying a number of men to the Hongkong steamers. The collision occurred in the middle of the stream. The passenger boat was capsized and two of the passengers drowned. The question of responsibility will be investigated by the Harbour Master and the Customs officials.

26th October.

NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

The head of the Kwangtung police has petitioned Viceroy Shum requesting permission to establish the Central station in the Governor's yamen which has been vacant since the post has been abolished by Imperial Edict. The Viceroy has given his sanction and the Police are expected to take possession of their new offices within the next few days. The yamen is said to be one of the largest in Canton and exceeds in area the Viceroy's one. It is reported that new stations are to be established at Nam Kwan and Tungkwan, the southern and eastern suburbs. The force has been thoroughly reorganised of late and has proved very effective in checking lawlessness.

THE TARTAR-GENERAL.

The Chinese gunboat *Chau To* has been despatched to Hongkong to bring the Tartar-General up to Canton. His Excellency's departure from Peking was delayed as he had been invited by Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai to attend the first Grand Manœuvres of the reorganised Chinese Northern Army. It is expected that the Tartar-General will call on His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong.

APPEASING ANGRY SPIRITS.

The Prefect of Canton, Chan-Mong-Tsang, has given orders to the Nam-Hoi and Pun-Yu magistrates to perform the customary ceremonies connected with the Ha-Yuen festival. The above officials are requested to carry the joss of the Guardian Spirit of the city to a certain place outside the western gate to be worshipped there, and that offerings of pigs, sheep and chickens be made at the joss's temple inside the city. The prefect has ordered bands to play music at both places. This festival is of very ancient origin. It is annually held to quiet the spirits of those who have died in prison or who have been executed. It is said that centuries ago a cruel official had been the cause of the death of a great number of innocent persons. Their spirits are constantly hovering about the magistrates' yamens, and it is to appease their just anger that this festival has been established to allow this class of official to atone for their and their predecessors' sins.

AN AWKWARD MISUNDERSTANDING.

On the 23rd inst. an express was circulated by the local auctioneers, Messrs. Tavares and Cunha, announcing the sale by auction of Mr. Take's household and office furniture at the residence, No. 116 British Concession, Shameen. It appears that the premises were sublet only a few days ago to Mr. Take by the lessee, Mr. Silva, for a period of three years. Mr. Silva on seeing the express naturally sought to protect himself and caused the premises to be sealed by the Portuguese Consul-General who communicated the matter to the Municipal authorities. Mr. Take, who is a Japanese subject, was carrying on business here as a commission agent.

THE WAI-CHOW DISTURBANCES.

It is reported that Commodore Shek Yuek Shau, who was deputed some time ago by Viceroy Shum to quell the insurrection at Wai-chow, has succeeded in capturing the ringleader, Li A Lum, and twenty of his followers in the Haichai village, in the Loong Cheun district. They are being sent here to be tried and will no doubt appear on the execution ground at an early date as no mercy is shown to this class of criminal.

CHINESE SOLDIER PIDJIN.

The soldiers of the Hi division have sent a joint petition to Viceroy Shum accusing their

commander Mok-Kok-kee of having misappropriated the monies received by him for the purpose of providing uniforms and clothing for his men. Commander Mok is a nephew of Major-General Mok-Sin-chik of the army here.

A LUCKY SERVANT.

A man, surnamed Au, living in the neighbourhood of Fatshan, won the first prize of the Shau-Piu lottery, a sum of over 50,000 taels. He gave to his slave girl, who had a seventh share in the lucky ticket, only 40 taels! The slave girl caused her father to see the gentry and directors of the Man Sin charitable institution and prompt redress was obtained. The latter have ordered Au to hand over to his servant the sum of 7,000 taels.

BOGUS "BRAVES."

Brigands often resort to the expedient of impersonating braves to overcome their victims and, under the pretence of searching for stolen goods, carry away all the valuables they come across. A party of thieves who were impersonating the braves of No 17 division were met by the commander of the division, Sau-Kai-Cheong, who immediately saw the ruse as he recognised none of the men, and caused them to be arrested by his own braves. Several escaped but the ringleader, Lo-Gnai-Ching-Tai, was caught. These men were wearing uniforms of the 17th division and, but for the accidental meeting with the commander, would have robbed the houses they were surrounding.

PRESENTATION TO THE CANTON POSTMASTER.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A pleasing ceremony took place on the 21st inst. at the Chinese Imperial Post Office, when the postal staff assembled to say farewell to the Postmaster, Mr. A. H. Hyland, upon his departure for home on a two years' furlough, after thirteen years' service in Canton. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present Mr. Hyland with a massive silver salver, a tefully ornamented and suitably engraved, together with the usual scrolls wishing health and prosperity to the recipient. The presentation was made by the Chief Inspector, Mr. Tsui Hung, on behalf of the staff, and his speech in Chinese eulogised Mr. Hyland's many good qualities, his ability in building up the postal service in the Canton District from its inception in 1897 to its present flourishing state, which the speaker said was largely due to Mr. Hyland's unremitting exertions and administrative ability. In conclusion, he wished, on behalf of the staff assembled, and for many more scattered all over the province, to wish Mr. Hyland every happiness and enjoyment in his own home and to hope that, on his return, they should all meet again and resume their present agreeable relations.

Mr. Hyland leaves for home at the end of this month, and it is expected that he will receive an enthusiastic send-off not only from his many foreign friends, but from a large number of Chinese, with whom his reputation is very high. The flowing bowl will flow, and welkin ring with the bombs and crackers so dear to the native heart.

A reconstruction of the staff is caused upon Mr. Hyland's departure. Mr. W. G. Lay having been appointed Postal Commissioner, and Mr. J. L. McDowall, Deputy Postmaster.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Macao, 24th October.

THE SHOOTING SEASON.

The shooting season has commenced and is now in full force in the neighbourhood of Macao. The sudden change in the weather has brought forward a big lot of game. Many parties went out last Sunday, some of them having left on Saturday night to go up the river. I understand that they all returned with good bags, and are now so enthusiastic over their success, that they are again making arrangements for another day's good sport on Sunday next. Some sportsmen are even going up the West River, but birds are plentiful round about this city, snipe especially

being numerous in the villages near Tai-po. The best way to get to these places is to go by boat to Salicout, and then tramp across country to Tai-po, the boat to wait for the return of the party at Tai-po. A good guide is necessary.

TREE CUTTING.

Owing to the posting of the electric light standards, many old and beautiful trees which adorned the Rua de Campo and the Rua de S. Domingo, have been cut down. These trees were planted many years ago at great expense to the Government, and it is a pity to see them cut down wholesale. The Electric Company could very well have fixed up these posts without interfering with these beautiful trees, which used to afford fine shade during the summer. I hope that they will not commit the same depredation in the Avenida.

THE TRANSPORT "AFRICA."

This transport belonging to the Portuguese Government is now on her way to Macao, having left Lisbon sometime last month. I understand that she is bringing out reliefs for the garrison and the navy of Macao.

FIRES.

I notice that cases of fire are now rather frequent in this city. Can it be because we have now a new Chief Justice? When the Insurance Companies started taking risks on Chinese houses some years ago, fires were of frequent occurrence, but Dr. Magalhaes, the then Chief Justice, suspected arson, and in many instances meted out exemplary punishments which served as a deterrent. Fires then became few and far between, and now with the departure of Dr. Magalhaes, there is again a revival of these nefarious practices. It would be well for Dr. Arez to follow the principle adopted by his predecessor; he would be conferring a boon on the people of Macao.

A DANGEROUS AMUSEMENT.

Some soldiers belonging to the Artillery were out for a stroll one evening. One of them drew out his sword and started playing at fencing with one of his comrades. He unfortunately wounded him by accident. The man was so frightened when he saw the wound, that he himself telephoned to the barracks for a guard to take him to prison, although the wounded man protested against this, saying that he was not seriously hurt. The man now will have to face a court martial.

AN OLD TALK.

The scheme of extending the Praia Grande to Barra is again mooted. It is rumoured that the work will be started soon, but I am inclined to think that such will not be the case. If there is any truth in the rumour, it would be much more advantageous for Macao to have the reclamation work near the *Heungshan's* wharf continued. The latter has begun; why not have the work completed? The Government is becoming notorious for vacillation of this kind.

PAKHOI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

20th October.

VISITORS.

We were visited, on the 14th instant, by two torpedo destroyers, the *Sabr* and the *Francisque*, of the French Asiatic Squadron. They left on the 18th instant for Haiphong.

A NEW BUILDING.

The German Consulate has been removed to its new palatial building. It is one of the finest mansions that adorn the foreign residential quarter, being a contrast to the old Consulate, which is of light structure. The new Consulate took a little over one year for its construction, the foundation being laid sometime last July, but the severe typhoon of the 10th August following laid flat the partially erected walls, and the work of reconstruction had to be commenced afresh. I hear that the cost of building was some \$20,000. Considering that both the materials and labour are cheaper here than in most of the Treaty Ports, one might guess how substantial must be the edifice costing so much. Its architectural beauty is by no means a matter to be overlooked. It is a two-storied building with verandahs nearly all round. As a summer residence it has no equal in the port. A covered way connects the building with its kitchen and outhouses, of which there are many. An equally

substantial wall, the largest of the kind here, encircles the ground on which the building stands, and the flower and vegetable gardens, as well as the inevitable tennis court. The locality also was well selected, being between the British Consulate to the south and Messrs. A. Schomburg & Co.'s residence to the north.

OTHER ERECTIONS.

I must mention also that the Customs are building a row of six two-storied houses for the accommodation of their out-door staff, and the premises are fast approaching completion.

Foundations have just been laid for the French Government New Hospital situated to the west of the French Government School. A grant of \$3,000 had been made for this purpose two years ago, but work could not be commenced until now, for the only contractor (Lo Tzi) had his hands fully engaged at the time.

The foundations for a new chapel for the Church Mission Society are also about to be laid.

Native houses are springing up like mushrooms throughout the town.

These speak volumes for the improvement of the port and the increase in the number of the native population. Where such improvements are noticeable, trade ought to increase in the same ratio; but no; it is declining in nearly all its branches, while the prices of food stuffs are rising to heights previously unknown.

CATTLE.

Oxen have been sent to your port recently in appreciable numbers. These animals, I understand, are brought here from Kwangsi overland and exported by steamers to your port, and taken to the abattoir there. As a new source of meat supply for your port, it ought to materially relieve the Colony from the high price of meat said to be ruling some time ago.

A FAMILY ARRESTED.

Owing to a Canton telegram received here by the Naval authorities, the family of the late chief officer of the Chinese gunboat *Kwang Kum*, composed of his wife, his old mother and a servant girl, has been arrested and detained. The chief officer is reported to have embezzled, while in Canton, the sum of over Tls. 1,000 entrusted to his care to be taken to this port. He has absconded and is still at large. The family is to be sent to Namhoi to be dealt with if the man fails to surrender himself, or his wealthy relations do not pay the money.

"THE VICTORIOUS NUMBER."

That is the title of a seventy-page commemoration number of the *Maicho Shimpō*, which has reached us from the publishers in Yokohama. It is a wonderful example of journalistic enterprise, although we must admit it would have been more "victorious" if the publishers had had the sense to get someone better acquainted with the English language to edit those portions which are printed in our tongue. Because some of the blunders are so amusing, and with no desire to poke fun at our confrères, we may quote some of them, merely cautioning the reader against thinking that English is not better understood and "wrote" in the neighbouring empire.

An article on "Japanese restaurants at Yokohama" describes the native restaurants at Yokohama where visitors are advised to study Japanese manners. We read that "the upper part of room is partial the chief guest being to sit backing it," and "when the entertainment is progressed the host give thanks to the assembled guests which is returned by them. Geisha helps in the entertainment while they sing and play as well they being. The is considered as necessary in entertaining. They make toilet their special study so that their style is elegant and graceful and associating as they do with men of upper circle they are genteel in deportment and easy in manner." And more beside, all to "sated the eyes of the beholders." A "Mr. Tuft" is said to have enjoyed it quite recently; the appears to be an American Secretary of War.

A history of the tea trade tells us that "in 1875 a Chinese was engaged for manufacture of tea and black tea in Chinese way having been manufactur the sample was sent abroad to ask for criticism while an officer connected with industry was despatched to China for observation of the actual condition of black and green

tea there which was followed by another party having been sent out to India in next year for the purpose of studying the condition of green tea there." The history concludes with a word for the future. "In no distant future a great reformation will take place in tea trade and should Yokohama merchants remain lazy just as they are the tea market will be removed to Shizuoka as is evinced by the quotation at Shizuoka ruling at Yokohama."

The editorial article is addressed to "the rulers and people of the world" and to "Emperors Kings, Presidents, Ministers of State, and general public of foreign countries." It remarks, inter alia: "We need scarcely say that our little paper is incapable to represent fully and satisfactorily the idea and feelings of Japanese people, but circumstances not allowing us to be silent on the subject we assume upon ourselves the liberty of placing ourselves as mouth organ of the people." It must be admitted that mouth organ is a distinct score. Proceeding to discuss "post vellum" measures, our contemporary goes on: "However the Japanese nation feeling grateful for the sympathies expressed in our late struggle with Russia our labouring their selves to supply the of the world with good and cheap article which shall welcomed by all. When the country was first opened to trade these engaged were ignorant and lacked fund while foreigners who opened frome in this country were finopocery those who got fortune by coniling of prosince of Japanese peoper. This brought about conflict f ointerest between them and both parties not understanding each other well transaction was often made with doubt and suspicion. The result of such circuma'ame is that there character of Japanese was misunderstood and true worth of Japanese people was not know abrowd. But now there are many merchan who got wealth by the trade and understands that honesty in the only means to get riches, as their character is not intend to any fuey recesone. Agsin said recebont of good character having come to engage in foreign lands bid clement's have been drivers out of the industrial circle of late and goods element come to monopolize the market now." We can hardly express how glad we are to hear this "Honesty" is the best policy, much better than getting "fortune" by "coniling" at "finopocery."

But now we have given enough. As our contemporary observes, "want of space obringes us to stop her." Before we stop her, however, we may mention that the number is beautifully illustrated, only the English descriptions mar-ring the fine photographs. One, a view of the place in a dairy where the cows are milked, is labelled the "squeezeing out place." The portrait of the proprietor is labelled: "Esq. A. Successor of Keeping Cows And Mi Lking."

THE STAR FERRY COLLISION.

INQUIRY AS TO THE CAUSE.

At the Magistracy on the 26th October before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a jury composed of Messrs. A. McDougall, H. F. Carmichael and M. Cassidy, an inquiry was held into the circumstances surrounding the death of Cheung Yung Mui and Chau Tai Tai, sampan women. The deceased were drowned in the harbour on the 16th instant as the result of a collision between the sampan they were sailing and the ferry launch *Evening Star*.

Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the *Star Ferry Co.*, and the coxswain of the *Evening Star*, while Mr. O. D. Thomson watched the proceedings on behalf of the relatives of the deceased.

Dr. W. Moore, medical officer in charge of the Kowloon mortuary, testified that on the 18th instant he examined the bodies of the deceased and found that death was caused by drowning.

Chan Yau said he was the owner of the rowing boat which was sunk by the *Ferry Evening Star*. On the morning of the 16th instant he was coming from the French mail steamer, which was at the buoy, to Blake pier. He had a Chinese passenger on board besides his wife, daughter, younger brother and a foki. Witness was sailing and the wind was blowing moderately from the east. The tide was running west.

He saw the ferry launch about 300 feet on his port bow. She had just left the wharf. When within about 200 feet of him he called out to the ferry four or five times; she altered her course to port shortly before the collision but struck him on the port bow. He did not hear any whistle. The sampan was capsized and its occupants thrown into the water, his wife and daughter being drowned. The collision occurred west of Messrs. Shewan Tomes' buoy.

To Mr. Deacon—He was sailing with the wind behind him, and slightly slanting. There were no other craft between the French mail and Blake pier, and he saw the ferry launch from the time she left the wharf. She steered an easterly course. The ferry altered her course when witness hailed her. If she had altered her course to starboard instead of port the collision would not have happened; he did not alter his course when he saw the collision imminent. His wife was steering. After the collision the ferry blew her whistle.

Mr. Deacon called Lo Fuk, coxswain of the *Evening Star* ferry launch. He said that when he observed the sampan it was sailing as if from the police pier to Hongkong. There was a fresh north wind and the sampan was sailing free. He first observed the sampan about 200 yards distant on his port bow, and blew a warning signal on his whistle. As the sampan held her course witness blew a second blast, but apparently no notice was taken of it. He ported his helm with the intention of going astern of the sampan when about 50 or 60 feet distant. Before the collision he twice altered his course to starboard. The sampan altered her course at the last moment, and it was then that the ferry struck and capsized her. After blowing his whistle, as the sampan took no notice of his signals, he slowed down to half speed. At the time of the collision the ferry's engines were going astern. He stood by the sampan after the collision.

To a jurymen—When he stopped the engines he was close to the sampan, a few seconds after he reversed them.

The inquiry was adjourned.

CHINESE "STEELYARDS."

Mesny's *Miscellany* says:—The issue of balances [cheng, or apparatus for weighing] in some branches of Chinese trade is limited legally to the guild of that particular line of trade at such place. Thus in Chung-ch'ing the pork butchers' guild issue scales to persons who have been properly recommended as suitable persons (members of the same guild) to start a butcher's shop in that town or its suburbs; it being the opinion of other butchers that another shop is desirable. The butcher has to pay Tls. 30, I believe, for his first set of balances and Tls. 10, when they require renewal. These high prices are purposely charged as fees to the guild for the benefit of all its members. No butcher is permitted to set up in business without a set of those scales or balances. The standard of weight is one tael or liang, which is a Chinese ounce of about 550 grains troy.

The Chung-ch'ing butchers consider that one catty, or Chinese pound of pork, should weigh twenty taels or ounces, that is the largest I have heard of in matter of market scales of any place. In some places eighteen taels are called one catty, in others sixteen, fourteen, and twelve is the lowest I have heard of, and that is at Shanghai, within the foreign Settlements, and the catty thus is just the equivalent of the pound, P'ang, avoirdupois weight, and it is called P'ang-ch'eng, or say 6,600 grains troy weight, which equivalent applies to the Shih-ch'eng, or market scales only. The Ku-ping, or government treasury scales, are larger; the tael being equal to 579.84 troy grains; thus twelve taels, or Liang, are almost the exact equivalent of our pound avoirdupois, which is 7,000 grains. All other scales give less weight than the government scales from one to five per cent.

A Tokyo telegram to the *N.-C. Daily News*, dated 15th October, says:—The American steamer *Centennial* (1,184 tons), bound for Vladivostok, was captured on the 12th instant in La Perouse Strait.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NORWAY AND RUSSIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 20th October.

SIR,—Permit me to point out some errors in the leader of your esteemed paper of the 19th inst., regarding the dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden. You imply therein that it is presumed that Norway would have no objection to cede Finmarken to Russia, which would have given that country "What she was most desirous of, an ice-free port opening directly on the Atlantic coast." Quite apart from the fact that Finmarken forms part of the Arctic (where Russia has as good ports as ours) and not the Atlantic coast, it is a mistake to presume that my countrymen even for a minute would think of offering Russia any ice-free (or for the matter of that an ice-closed) harbour.

You might as well have said "it is presumed that Great Britain would have no objection to cede Caithness or Sutherland to the United States" if this power wanted a stronghold in Europe.

The fact of the matter is that Norway is as little inclined to accommodate Russia as Sweden, and if the latter country should ever be attacked by the mighty Cossack, we would promptly come to her assistance.

If the Russians do desire Finmarken, then it is only as a part of a larger area (Nordland and Finmarken in Norway; Lappland in Sweden). It can hardly be conceived that Russia, who would have as little or as much trouble in taking a part as the whole, would only take that which is of little value to her, while leaving the other provinces mentioned, with their thousands of million tons of high graded iron ore, ore that when the Spanish mines, ten or fifteen years hence, are exhausted, practically speaking, will be as invaluable to Great Britain as the coal-fields in Wales, Northumberland and Scotland. Commercially and strategically, Finmarken alone is of little use, whereas the possessors of the Ofoten Railway can command and control the Northern provinces of Norway and Sweden. We may, therefore, safely conclude that what Russia desires, if she, as she possibly may do, desires anything, is the land above the 65th degree, which includes several of the coveted ice-free harbours on the Atlantic coast, one of which, the prosperous port of Narvik, could be converted into a second Port Arthur.

You are further mistaken when you state that Norway was not awake to this danger when she dissolved the Union. Had you said that the ideas of the Swedes and the Norwegians as to how, conjointly and in the best manner, to counteract possible Russian aggressions, you would have been nearer the mark. Sweden being the larger country, sought this co-operation in a closer amalgamation with, not to say an assimilation of Norway, and to that end put every conceivable obstacle in the way to debar us from retaining the absolute independence that was ours.

Norway, on the other hand, growing tired of the incessant attempts upon her liberty and maintaining that a "union of hearts" was far superior to a union of coercion, took the opportunity offered it by the king when he, against the united demand of the Norwegian nation, Government and Parliament, and acting upon the advice of his Swedish re-actionary ministry, declined to come to Norway to settle a Norwegian matter and vetoed the consular law. Had King George, as Ruler of Hanover, and acting upon Hanoverian advice, refused to come to London to settle a British matter, and had he stayed in Hanover and vetoed a bill passed unanimously in the British Parliament, demanded by the whole population of Great Britain and by the British Government of the day, I have no doubt but that the people of Great Britain would have done the same as the Norwegians did on the 7th June, 1905.

When you say that it was only by the superior political presence of King Oscar and the Government of Sweden that the great common danger of war has been averted, this is a misnomer for the Government and Storting of Norway. You will find ample proof for my contention by looking up the leading articles of

such papers as the *Times* and *Standard*; the *Kölnische Zeitung*, and *Frankfurter Zeitung*; *Le Temps* and *Le Figaro*, not to speak of the leading American and Danish papers which, all of them, sided with us.

Not the Swedes but we averted a war by giving in on the question of the border fortifications, and all the papers mentioned give honour where honour is due.

When the settlement now proceeding has been concluded, it becomes the duty of Norwegians and Swedes alike to forget the past; and I am sure that every enlightened citizen in both countries again will do his best to create a renewed feeling of comradeship and goodwill. With the shadow from the Northwest hanging over our heads it should not take a generation to erase all hatred from the minds of the brothers in Scandinavia and, in the meantime, it would be well for all other European nations to remember that our loss would be theirs should the time come when the two small nations in the North would be called upon to repulse the attack of the modern Persians. We hold an honourable position as vanguards against the trampling down of Western culture. May we be true to our charge and staunch as the ancient Greeks.—Yours, etc.,

BJARNE AAGAARD.

CANTON LEPEHS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, October 20th.

DEAR SIR:—Will you allow me to appeal again to your readers for aid in behalf of the lepers of Canton and vicinity. The cold weather will soon be upon us, and with the cold weather the real suffering of the lepers begins. For two years friends in Canton and Hongkong have responded to this appeal and have enabled me to relieve a great deal of suffering. Unfortunately I cannot report any improvement in the condition of this unfortunate class nor has the number decreased. All that I can hope to do at present is to make their suffering more bearable during the most trying months of the year. Sometime soon I hope to have a "Home" for the more helpless. But during the cold months the lepers suffer terribly. In walking from place to place begging many suffer horrible physical torture. If we can supply food and clothing his condition is greatly relieved. With so many needing assistance it is possible to help only the very worst cases, and relieve the worst forms of suffering. A careful investigation of the leper village has been made and there are about 200, mostly women, who will require a daily allowance of rice during about four months to keep them from starving to death. Three and a half cents will provide food for one leper for one day. \$7 a day for 200. \$140 for four months. This amount is not large but it will relieve a great deal of suffering. Many others will require occasional help. We need also clothes and about 200 rain hats for those who go out to beg. With \$1,000 we can do much to help the most needy. We are deeply grateful to those who have helped in the past and we trust that they and many others will help us this year.

Captain Brown, of Kowloon, will forward any clothing that may be sent to him for the lepers.—Yours truly,

ANDREW BEATTIE.

In behalf of the Lepers.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this society was held at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, on the 20th October. Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. G. C. Moxon, H. P. White (consulting committee) G. T. Veitch (secretary), S. A. Joseph, C. W. Richards, J. Orange, P. C. Potts, C. H. Rogge, P. Tester, A. G. Morris, F. G. Goddard, A. Forbes, C. E. H. Beavis, F. G. Ribeiro, Wong Leong Him, Ho Fook, Chan Sun, Ho Yu Sang, Fok Kam Tim and So Cheung Shui.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as the report and relative statement of accounts

have been in your hands for the past three weeks, I presume we may follow the usual custom and take them as read. You will doubtless concur in the opinion of the general agents and consulting committee that the result of the 1904 working is satisfactory, enabling us, as it does, to recommend an increase of six per cent. in the dividend, a substantial addition to both the reserve and re-insurance funds, and the carrying forward of a somewhat larger sum than usual to meet outstanding losses and averages on 1904 and previous years. I should mention in connection with this result, that although meeting those of our regular constituents who desired to protect themselves against war risks, we have otherwise taken no part in the highly speculative business which frequently offered during the course of hostilities between Russia and Japan, deeming it more prudent to abstain therefrom. Notwithstanding peace is now concluded, there still remains the undoubted great danger from floating mines in the waters of North China, of the existence of which there has recently been very convincing evidence in the unfortunate loss of the s.s. *Haich Ho*, and damage to other vessels. It is to be hoped that the late belligerents will speedily recognise it to be their duty to make search for and destroy these terrible dangers to peaceful commerce which they have set adrift. The apparent diminution in our premium income as expressed in dollars is explained by our having converted gold contributions at a rate of exchange over nine per cent. higher than in 1903. As stated in the report, we have every reason to be satisfied with the progress of this year's business. Losses to date are about the same as last year, while our premium income is appreciably greater. You will notice a considerable increase in our funds, and I have pleasure in stating our surveyors report most favourably on the various properties mortgaged to the office. With these few remarks I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts as published.

Mr. MORRIS—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. I had this pleasure many years ago when the society was much younger than it is at the present moment, and I think we can all congratulate ourselves on the able and efficient way it has been worked. I am sorry to hear that our friend and secretary, Mr. Veitch, is likely to leave us, because I have no doubt that our prosperity is in a great measure due to him; and we can only hope that it will continue after he leaves.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN moved that the appointment of Mr. Moxon to the consulting committee be confirmed, and that the retiring members, Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. Maitland, White and Shellim, be re-elected to serve until the next annual meeting.

Mr. ORANGE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and T. Arnold as auditors.

Mr. JOSEPH seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. Those who are local shareholders will be posted first thing. I am obliged to you for your attendance.

SALE OF THE S.S. "YING KING."

A large number of Chinese assembled at the Wing Lok Street wharf on the 26th October bid for the Yuk On Steamship Company's river steamer *Ying King*, which was put up for public auction sale by Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers. Bidding started at \$50,000 and rose by bids of \$2,000 and then \$1,000 up to \$93,000, when Messrs. Pang Yik Chan and Li Shek Pan, both shareholders of the Yuk On Company, offered another \$5,000, thus increasing the amount to \$98,000. At this price they became the purchasers.

The name of Dr. Daisy A. M. Clark, B.M., B.S., of Glasgow university, has been added to the register of medical and surgical practitioners qualified to practise medicine and surgery in this Colony.

FINGER PRINT EVIDENCE.

ITS USE IN HONGKONG.

[Written for the "Daily Press."]

Though introduced into Hongkong rather more than a year ago, the system of tracing criminals by their finger prints, as practiced in the Colony, has not come under the public notice. For several reasons, the chief being the erroneous impression which prevails on the subject, the local authorities have hesitated to submit the identification supplied by finger prints as evidence on which they would ask a jury to convict a prisoner, and hitherto they have been content to rely on the old and somewhat cumbersome proceeding involved in taking photographs and recording the descriptions of the persons who pass through their hands. But interest in this new phase of criminal investigation has of late been aroused through various causes, and that will perhaps be deemed sufficient justification for our dealing with it in this article.

Our attention to the practice was attracted by the case of a Chinaman convicted at the Magistracy last week. Arrested on a charge of theft, his finger prints were taken, with the result that it was found he had been banished some time ago under a different name to what he had given on this occasion. When before the magistrate he admitted the accuracy of the particulars and was, of course, dealt with accordingly. This led to inquiries on the part of our representative, who was given opportunities of seeing how the finger prints are taken and learning, through the courtesy of Mr. F. L. Clyde of the identification department of the Detective staff, something of the system.

At the outset one has to distinguish between what finger print identification is and what it is not. It will perhaps be easier to say, firstly, what it is not. It does not mean that the similarity of one finger print of a prisoner with an impression in the pigeon holes of the Police Department is sufficient to establish his identity. If such were the case there would be some justification for questioning either the value or the justice of the system. No, finger print identification is much more than that. The impressions of the whole ten digits are taken, and while points of similarity between two persons' prints may be so great in two fingers as to make it difficult to distinguish between them, yet in all the thousands of records taken by the police there have not been discovered two hands alike, so that the possibility of an error is very remote.

The reason for selecting impressions of the fingers in preference to any other part of the human body is that these do not show any change. Finger prints taken in early years show the same characteristics in old age; and even change of occupation is not sufficient to affect the peculiarities which distinguish the hands of one individual from another. For instance, a clerk with soft hands and delicate fingers may in course of time engage in manual labour and become a "horny handed son of toil." Yet though the fingers may be scarred and seared and the skin hardened, the readings of the finger prints will, notwithstanding the difference that has taken place, disclose the whorls or loops, ridges bifurcated at certain points, and the stopping abruptly of others that were found in the original prints.

That this method of identification is really an exact science is demonstrated by the fact that it is based on pattern and ridge characteristics which persist throughout the period of human life. The dimensions of the limbs and body alter in the course of growth and decay; the colour and quantity of the hair, the tint and quality of the skin, the number and set of the teeth, the expression of the features, and even the eye change after many years, but in the minute ridges on the fingers there is a persistence which has been known to last after death up to the time when the skin perished through decomposition. It is stated that the marks on the fingers of many Egyptian mummies and on the paws of stuffed monkeys still remain legible. Be that as it may, it will be admitted that,

given this permanence in the finger skin characteristics, it should not be difficult to establish a system which could be applied universally, and this is what has been done through the labours of scientists and police experts. Having indicated what it is as a science, we will now proceed to the consideration of the finger print system as an art.

With a piece of flat tin, some printer's ink, a roller for spreading it, and a sheet of ordinary white paper, we will set to work. These few simple appliances are all that are required. Spreading the ink on the flat tin, we take the hand of the subject, place his thumb on the inky surface, then transfer it to the paper, making a clear print. And so on with the index, middle, ring and little fingers. Immediately below these we record the impressions of the corresponding digits of the left hand. A slip on the part of the operator might lead to the fingers not being printed in their proper sequence, but this contingency is guarded against by placing the index, middle, ring and little fingers of each hand in a mitten or strap and taking their impressions simultaneously. This ensures the fingers being read in the proper sequence, for the one impression must prove the other.

Coming now to the classification of the impressions, we learn that for purposes of indexing there are four main reference marks. The first indicates the character of the ridges on the thumb—whether whorls, loops, arches or composites; the second, the special feature of the index finger; the third the special feature of the index and middle fingers combined; and the fourth the number of ridges on the little finger. It will be surprising to find how many records this primary classification brings into one pigeon hole, but there is a sub-classification based on the details of each finger which has the effect of giving each record its own distinctive character. An idea of the care bestowed upon the records may be gathered from the fact that each is checked in turn by four and sometimes five officials.

Seen under the microscope, the prints reveal even to the uninitiated points of difference which would seem to give each its special individuality, and it is interesting to note that when finger prints are put in as exhibits they have been photographed and enlarged, so that it is easy for the judge or jury to see the points of similarity or dissimilarity on which the prosecution rely. Neither has the possibility of similarity in the finger characteristics of two individuals been ignored. Experts have calculated that the odds against all the numerous features of one digit being found in the finger of another individual are over a million to one, while the chances of coincidences occurring in each of the ten digits of one person would run to figures representing more than the inhabitants of the earth.

Of course the chief use to which the finger print system is put is as a means of identification after arrest. In this connection it has proved very valuable in India, as well as at home, and the results are likely to lead to its more general adoption. Supposing a man is arrested, and it is suspected he has been in trouble before, the official in charge takes the impressions of his fingers and classifies them. Taking the records from the corresponding pigeon hole he runs down the list until his eye catches the peculiarity which gives this record its individuality. In like manner, the expert can ascertain within a few minutes after the receipt of an inquiry, accompanied by the prints, whether the impressions resemble those on any of the records. He has in the primary classification, whether all ten fingers are whorls or loops; (2) if all loops the sub-classification is given by ridge counting; (3) if all whorls, sub-classification is given by ridge tracing. Points of difference as well as points of agreement are looked for, and he usually has little trouble in deciding whether or not the individual in question is on record in that department.

While the system may not be infallible, its working so far has not revealed any defects, and we are sure that were the public more intimate with its operation and aware of the care exercised by the authorities, its value would be better appreciated. It has stood the test of many years and its greater application in the Colony would certainly not be prejudicial to the furtherance of the causes of law and justice.

FOUR DAYS IN FORMOSA.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

As there are doubtless many people in Hongkong who have wished to take a short holiday, one requiring less time than it takes to go to Japan, or Shanghai, a few notes on the possibilities of Taiwan (Formosa) may be helpful. This island is well worth a visit. It is healthy, has particularly beautiful scenery, some curiously interesting features, and is attractive moreover, as showing the colonising abilities of our Japanese allies. It possesses, at present, the additional and not usual merit of cheapness. At the capital, Taihoku (a name now more properly used than Taipeh, the old Chinese name) shopping can be done with much more satisfaction to the globe-trotter than in the foreign settlements of Japan, where the dealers have learned to add a percentage when quoting to foreign buyers; and almost anything that can be got in Tokyo can be got in Taihoku, which might be called for many reasons New Tokyo. The trip from and back to Hongkong, allowing ample time for a little tour of inspection, may be accomplished in exactly ten days.

Mr. Arima, the courteous Hongkong manager of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, who is an enthusiast with regard to the beauties of Formosa, has himself written a brochure on the subject (now in the press) and spares no pains to help the intending passenger to arrange a satisfactory itinerary. A steamer leaves every Sunday, returning on the following Sunday, reaching Tamsui or Hongkong early Wednesday morning according as they are outward or homeward bound.

The first view of Tamsui (not Tamsui, as foreigners have been erroneously spelling it) is charming, and as there is sometimes a brief wait outside the bar for the tide, there is plenty of time to take in the fine sweep of the landscape, verdant looking hills rolling down to a pretty river, which is good for boating, but not (the British Consular constable says) for bathing. The town itself will not detain the traveller, being a straggling, filthy, Chinese village, with a few cleaner Japanese homesteads standing a little aloof. Taking one of the frequent trains on a well conducted railway, the tripper will get out at Hokuto, after a seven mile ride (about forty cents first class) and walk up a typical Japanese road to the Hotel where he may smoke and drink, kimono-clad, in a Japanese garden, during the pauses between his sulphur baths. Higher up the picturesque ravine are sulphur springs, visibly geysering from the volcanic lava. The water is so strongly impregnated with sulphur that the stones and boulders in the stream are thickly encrusted with yellow. This stream has been tapped by the hotel people, and conducted by bamboo pipes to a nice, clean bath house, where the traveller may emulate Naaman, and be made clean. If, as is possible, he proposes to stay here only one day, in order to see more of Formosa during his four days, he had better plunge in Jordan discreetly, for the sulphur is potent; and in removing impurities from the system, it must first bring them to the surface. He may, therefore, revelling in this wonderful bath, return to the haunts of men with his epidermis resembling the neighbouring hill, viz: in a state of eruption. The after effect, however, is undoubtedly wholesome. Another six or seven miles by rail brings one to Taihoku; and here space fails. Those who know Tokyo will understand that Taihoku cannot be summed up in a paragraph. The shops alone, and their possibilities, will take much time. Among the "sights," the traveller will certainly visit the police museum of native curios—the weapons, tools, and clothing of the Formosan aborigines. This is a very interesting collection of savage gear, which has been open only about three months. Mr. Miyoshi, a gentleman attached to the Police and Gubernatorial Department, a fluent English speaker, and a widely travelled and most interesting raconteur, should be sought after. Mr. Ino, the expert cicerone of the museum, speaks only a little English. Mr. Mori, professor at the police schools, who speaks German fluently and well, is also very kind, and seems glad to help his foreign friends. The palace of General Baron Kodama, the Military Governor of

Formosa, who is at present in Manchuria, with its beautiful grounds laid out by expert Japanese gardeners, may also be seen after some little formality. At Taihoku also is the finest convict prison in the whole of the Japanese Empire. There are three of these institutions in Formosa, but the one at the capital is regarded as the model one. It was all planned by the present Governor of the Prison, Mr. Komatsu, who is not only a typical Japanese aristocrat but a very clever man. In this institution some hundreds of Chinese (most of the prisoners were Chinese) are taught useful trades. They prepare the Panama-like fibre and weave Formosan hats, etc.; they make furniture and lacquer ware; cloth and clothes; boots, machinery, and all sorts of things. They are clean, comfortable, and certainly better off in than out. When discharged, they will doubtless be more useful members of colonial society. Parts of the old Chinese wall round the city are still standing; but the Japanese city long ago out-grew this boundary; and the streets, now wide, well made, and geometrically laid out, present the "magnificent distances" noted at Tokyo. Skipping the shopping, and starting early in the morning, the traveller may take train and go up to one of the trading stations where the Formosan savages come into touch with civilisation as represented by Japanese police outposts. The journey is beautiful enough, but whether the spectacle of a few semi-naked, surly savages is sufficient reward for a long and tiring day is one for the traveller's own taste to decide. At the museum already mentioned, he may see their photographs and accoutrements with no more trouble than a ten cent ricksha ride entails. The hotels are Japanese, and good and cheap. Three yen a day represents the top, first-class charge (including three meals). Some of them do not mind cooking chicken, fish, meat, etc., foreign style for guests who cannot stomach Japanese cooking. This might mean a slight extra charge. Tables and chairs are also available at some. Twatutia (where the foreign business men mostly live) is very handy by rail, as is also Keelung, the other and more important northern seaport. The whole trip, on the line here sketched, should not cost more than a hundred dollars, the return fare being a little over \$5. The monotony of the sea trip is broken by visits at Amoy and Swatow.

DEATH OF MR. ATWELL COXON.

A tel-gram has been received in Hongkong bringing the melancholy intelligence that on October 17th there passed away, at Home, Mr. Atwell Coxon, who for many years was one of the most prominent men in Hongkong.

Mr. Coxon's life in the East commenced in the Mercantile Bank in Bombay about 1853, and ended in 1898, when he left Hongkong as a hale and hearty man. He came to this Colony late in the fifties or early in the sixties, in the service of the Mercantile Bank, and a few years afterwards he took up the calling of an Exchange broker, which he carried on until he finally severed his connection with the Far East.

Blessed with a handsome presence and a charming manner, Mr. Coxon possessed all the qualities calculated to ensure success on the social side of life; and in addition he had an energy and public spirit which carried him to the front of every useful movement in the community. He was Commandant of the Volunteers for years, and the army undoubtedly lost an ideal soldier when, as a younger son, Mr. Coxon had to turn to commerce for a living. He was for years head of the local Fire Brigade, when it was entirely a volunteer body, and the post was no sinecure. Any old resident knows stories of the toil and hard work borne by the brigade when water and appliances were considerably less than they are now. During the great fire of 1878, we have heard that Mr. Coxon lived in his clothes for two or three days, taking odd snatches of sleep only when exhaustion made it absolutely necessary.

As an amateur actor, he, together with his talented wife, every winter afforded great joy

to a community which was in those days entirely dependent on itself for dramatic representations. As an actor and raconteur he was inimitable. As a steward of the Race Club, and as Chairman of the Hongkong Club for years, he wielded undisputed sway in all sporting and social matters. When he grew older and sought a well-earned rest at Home, the more peaceful occupations of golf and fishing supplied him with recreation and amusement.

"All who knew Atwell Coxon," remarks an old friend, "will feel that the world is much the poorer by the loss of one who possessed all the attributes of a Christian and a gentleman." We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Coxon in her bereavement.

CHINESE ANARCHISTS.

The arrest of the six men who were brought down from Peking last week, says the *Peking Times* on 14th October, does not seem to have satisfied the Peking authorities that the real culprits have been traced, or that all danger is past. It is not generally known, we think, that on the same day as the outrage a bomb was found to have been laid on the line a short distance beyond Fengtai, but like the one in Peking appears to have exploded with too much previousness and happily did no harm. The story has been kept quiet here, but the Shanghai native papers ventilated it and we have had it privately corroborated. The story of the man found on the roof of Tuan Fang's house which we published on a private authority is also true, and is corroborated by a memorial from Censor Cheng Heng-ching, who is much concerned at the failure of the Peking detectives to arrest any of the party which is now terrorising the Capital. He urges that the Court must set a definite time for the arrest of the culprits otherwise they will never be caught, and the Commissioners' departure will be indefinitely delayed. He points out that the boldness of the ruffian on Tuan Fang's roof in shouting out "*wo lai laio*" or "I come" was very significant, that there are not only more of them but also of their determination. He has therefore petitioned the Throne to allow only ten days for the arrest of all the band, and maintains that if the officials and police go to work diligently and search all the tea shops and places where such ruffians usually resort they will effect something and set the public mind at rest.

An Imperial Edict consequently directs that Na Tung and Yuan Shi kai shall take steps for the "immediate arrest" of the guilty parties and report the same to the Throne. Such an order insures that arrests of some sort will be made, and a report will doubtless shortly be sent in that the chief culprits have been secured, and a few heads will possibly pay the penalty for somebody's daring. This will as usual call forth words of praise and officially restore the Imperial and public confidence, but we have very little doubt that the party working against the dynasty is quite clever enough to keep out of harm's way. The report which we alluded to yesterday of a rumoured attempt on the Empress Dowager had, as is so often the case, a *soupeçon* of foundation. Warning had reached the Palace that an attempt would be made when the Court was on its way back to Peking, and the time of departure was therefore kept a profound secret even from the Palace officials. The order to prepare for the trip instead of being given two or three days before hand as is usual, was only given a few hours before and when the procession started on the 8th from the Summer Palace an unusually strong military escort accompanied it and the additional precaution was taken of having an empty chair in front of that occupied by the Empress Dowager, so that if any treachery had been attempted the assassin would have been foiled. The position was too strong, or the ruffian was thrown off the scent, for nothing occurred to mar the journey. Such a state of affairs, however, only serves to show what a panic stricken condition the Court and official world of Peking must be in, and we can only presume that the Chinese who know the true inwardness of their own people better than we can do have good cause for their uneasiness.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Wu Ting-fang has memorialised Peking to the effect that the recent edict abolishing judicial torture is being disobeyed. It has been repeated.

The *Nanfengpao* of October 17 says that the Chinese Government has decided to abandon the idea of redeeming the Chinese Eastern Railway, as some foreign Powers show a tendency to intervene.

It is worthy of note that Shanghai Native City has the honour of inaugurating the first instalment of representative government in China. A Chinese Municipal Council has been elected there.

All restrictions on trade according to the neutrality regulations during the war have been withdrawn, and the Imperial Maritime Custom houses have received orders to act accordingly.

The International Chess Club of Shanghai was inaugurated on Oct. 19. The following officers were unanimously elected:—President, Mr. H. W. de Sausmarez; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. B. Lookhart; committee, Messrs. J. Mencarini, J. E. Lemiére, L. Dudeney, K. Schirmer, M. de Jesus, A. E. Moses, and P. S. Sethna, the object being to have as many nationalities represented as possible. The club meets at the French Hotel.

The St. Andrew's Society of Shanghai met in annual session on Oct. 18. The accounts showed a credit balance of \$623.52, as against \$122.82 last year. Less had been disbursed in charity, although there was an "unprecedented number of unemployed seafaring men in the Settlement." The ball was "a huge success," with "a record in liquid refreshments consumed" (*vide* Chairman's speech). The Burns concert paid better than the ball.

There is an amusing article in the *Japan Times* on the interport cricket match in which the attention paid by the Englishman to sport is gently deprecated. "To non-British minds, of many nationalities," says the writer, "it seems strange that serious business men, having to do their share in the world's work, should abandon all their occupations for a week and travel hundreds of miles, simply to play a child's game with a ball."

It is rumoured at Singapore, says the *Free Press*, that the new Governor of Labuan will be Mr. F. G. Penney, Colonial Secretary and previously Colonial Treasurer in Singapore. It is believed that the British North Borneo Government has now decided to make Jesselton the capital of the country. The move will probably be effected on January 1st, 1906. The arrangements at present are said to be that the land office, treasury and possibly the printing department will remain at Sandakan, the rest of the offices going to Jesselton. The Governor will probably divide the year between Jesselton and Sandakan.

Mr. David Macrae, the President of the Scottish Patriotic Association, has uttered a protest against the alliance with Japan being spoken of as "Anglo-Japanese." This use of the word "Anglo" he considers to be "not only historical inaccuracy but a breach of international good faith, violating as it does the very first condition of the Union." Euphony does not appeal to him where his amour propre is concerned. The word "British" would be just as historically inaccurate, by the way. To humour these silly Chauvins, however, let us speak of the Caledonian-Irish-Welsh-Pictish-Cymbri-Anglo-Gaelic-Jute-Saxo-Japanese Alliance.

A Chinese firm (Zung Chi) at Shanghai sued the Imperial Insurance Co., Ltd., for value of goods alleged to have been destroyed by fire. The claim was resisted, and after considering evidence (that the goods were not on the site of the fire) the judge concluded his judgment as follows:—"I give my reasons in the sort of way the case would have influenced a jury, and the way they have influenced my mind, with my knowledge of human affairs, and I have come to the conclusion that the goods were not there, and therefore that the plaintiffs are guilty of fraud, and I must give judgment for the defendants with costs." The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—The Imperial Insurance Co., Ltd., has done service both to the public and to other companies by fighting this claim.

COMMERCIAL.

SHANGHAI TEA MARKET.

Black Tea.—No business to report since the 2nd inst. Total settlement to 19th inst., 15,021 half-chests against 35,533 half-chests same date last year. Stock.—15,000 half-chests against 7,542 half-chests same date last year. **Green Tea.**—Pingsueys.—A very fair business has been done during the interval in chops at prices that shew a strong market. Country Tea.—A large business has been put through in "Medium" to "Good" quality teas; prices have advanced fully Tls. 1½-2 per picul; the stock on this market is small and only a small quantity to come. Common Teas have been in demand at steady rates. Local Pack and Wenchows.—The small business reported shews a steady market. Hysons.—"Fine" quality Teas are quiet, "Good" quality has declined at least 10 per cent, with few buyers. "Medium" to "Good Medium" Teas have been in fair demand at Tls. 22-35 shewing a steady market. Sou Mees.—With Batoum buyers quiet the market has come down about 10 per cent, and with little doing at the drop, a further decline may be looked for. Foong Mees.—"Common" to "Medium" quality Teas have declined Tls. 2-3 per picul, other qualities are steady with little doing. Small leaf Sou Mees are in demand at previous rates.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, dated Yokohama, October 14th, 1905, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—No fresh business, and all prices nominal. **Shirtings.**—Demand has fallen away to very small proportions, and there is very little market for anything at all. Deliveries are poor, and dealers are considering how they can clear their previous purchases before committing themselves to fresh engagements. **Fancy Cottons and Wollens.**—There is stagnation in the Fancy market and clearances are poor. **Metals.**—The market has been absolutely dead until the 11th instant, when there was a decided revival, and consequently there are now large quantities on the wires, especially of Bars Kerosine.—The market is firm. **Sugar.**—The market has been quiet, with little or nothing doing. **Indigo.**—There is nothing doing, stocks in first hands being greatly reduced.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—The fall in prices as reported in our last Circular has continued steadily, and prices show a further decline of about Yen 25 for all Filatures, whilst Rereels have gone down to Yen 1,010 for No. 1 and corresponding figures for the lower grades. At the close, our market remains weak, and all quotations as mentioned below must be considered more or less nominal, although a slightly better demand is noticeable.

Waste Silk and Cocoons.—Though buying has been brisk, there is still a good supply. Settlements 3,900 piculs, viz: Noshi, 1,800 piculs; Kibiso 2,000 piculs; Sundries, 100 piculs; Pierced Cocoons.—piculs. Present stock is estimated at 17,400 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 9,000 piculs; Kibiso, 7,500 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs; Pierced Cocoons, 400 piculs.

Tea.—No change to report. Total settlements from May 1st to October 13th, amount to 109,694 piculs, against 176,456 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

Fish Oil.—The market continues dull and quiet, and only very limited transactions are reported. **Copper.**—No change: nothing offering for export.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th Oct.—The upward tendency continues, market being firm.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.70 to \$8.75 pel.
Do. " 2, White	7.75 to 7.80 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.85 to 6.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.55 to 6.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.45 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White	7.75 to 7.80 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.85 to 6.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.55 to 6.60 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.55 to 12.60 "
Shekloong	11.25 to 11.30 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th Oct.—Good harvests are expected, and the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.70 to \$2.80
" Round, good quality	3.80 to 3.85
" Long	3.80 to 3.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.15 to 3.20
" Garden, " No. 1	3.65 to 3.70
" White	3.95 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th October.

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1100 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1180 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1200 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1230 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1200 to — do.
Patna New	\$987½ to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$1015 to — do.
Benares New	\$967½ to — do.
Benares Old	\$985 to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated 19th October, states:—The eagerly-looked-for rush that was expected so soon as Peace was ratified is still in embryo, and it appears very much as though the wish was father to the thought. To cite a typical case, a dealer bought some time back from an importer 50 cases of goods for shipment to Vladivostok so soon as Peace was signed and steamers allowed to clear for that port, which is the case now. On being asked why he did not clear he replied "Oh, that merchant man only wanchee five cases just now!" Several steamers have cleared but their cargoes consist chiefly of chow-chow stuffs. "Stagnation" expresses the real state of the import trade at present. The fact is every one is puzzled to know which way the cat will jump; surrounded as the trade is by so many ramifications, all of which have an important bearing on it, the most careful operator may go wrong. The give one example, the question of exchange is most disconcerting. A few months ago the majority here were quite certain there must be a heavy decline in rates so soon as Peace was ratified, but what has happened? Rates are strong and many are inclined to think will go much higher. So only a hand-to-mouth business is being done, and that mostly amongst second holders. The rush to sell flood-damaged goods is slackening off, although there is still a fair quantity unsold, but holders are inclined to keep them back and give buyers a chance of reselling what they have already bought, much of which has to be dyed, or re-dyed before they can dispose of it. The loss on piece goods so far is put down at between two and three million taels, and has wiped out most of the profits the dealers have made the last year or two, thus considerably curtailing their ability to invest in more at present; in other words it has caused a halt all along the line. Manchester is easier, and Liverpool is dull with Cotton down to 5.26d. after advancing to 5.26, at the end of last week. No change in the quotation for Egyptian—7½d. Manufacturers are quoting lower prices, but operators seem to be holding off for a further decline. Exports are keeping fairly heavy, that for the last fortnight being 15,000,000 yards of Plain Cottons. New York is still up in the skies. A purchase is advised for this market of Bucks Head Sheetings at 12s. 8d. for July shipment, and about the same price is wanted for that cloth and Whitney for August shipment. Clearances are said to have been interfered with by the bad weather during the past few days, but it is doubtful if that is really the cause. The markets in the country are generally in a wretched condition and all seem full to repletion of stocks. Hankow is quite lifeless, as are the larger markets in Szechuen, Newchwang and Tientsin which remain in much the same state as mentioned in our last. The Yarn market is dull in the extreme and Native Cotton is easier again.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th October.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42	180.00 to 190.00
Reported sales 3,000 bales.	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 "), " "	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 "), " "	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ "	5.10 to 8.00
to 14 lbs. }	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }	1.80 to 3.85
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	per yard
Brocades—Dyed	0.12½ to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22½ to 0.26

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.60 to 1.50
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WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.65 to 2.50
German	0.65 to 0.90
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.50 to 2.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted	7.85 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches }	13.00 to 21.00
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	8.50 to 10.00

	per lb
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.50

METALS—

	per picul.
Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.00 to —
Swedish Bar	4.00 to —
Small Round Rod	4.30 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.20 to —
Wire, 16 25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.60 to —
Australian	9.60 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.50 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	39.50 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	39.50 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —
Tin	88.00 to —

	per box
Tin-Plates	66.0 to —

	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾	6.20 to —

	per picul
Quicksilver	127.00 to —
	per box
Window Glass	6.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, Oct. 18th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 35.50
Do. Seconds	" 31.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	" 18.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	" (nom.)
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	" 8.25
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 13.00
Jute	" 4.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchev and/or Macheng	" 9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" 8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 11.90
Animal Tallow	" 11.00
Gallnuts, Usual shape	" 17.50
Do. Plum do.	" 13.60
Tobacco, Tingchow	" 8.25
Do. Wongkong	" 10.50
Black Bristles	" 98.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	" (nom.)
" " Wild Duck	" (")
Turmeric	" 3.50
Sesamum Seed	" 3.75
Sesamum Seed Oil	" 8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	" (nom.)
Wood Oil	" 9.20
Tea Oil	" 10.00

Per steamer *Agamemnon*, for Genoa, Marseilles and Liverpool, sailed on 20th Oct. For Genoa:—90 bales canes. For Trieste:—30 cases bristles. For Marseilles:—10 cases essential oil, 14 bales human hair. For Marseilles or N. Cont. Ports, &c.:—50 cases aniseed, 46 bales straw braid. For Liverpool:—10 cases essential oil, 100 casks ginger, 14 packages curios and etc., 100 packages Chinese goods and etc. For Manchester:—35 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, sailed on 21st Oct. For London:—544 packages tea (from Foochow), 10 packages lychees, 468 bales waste silk, 7 cases silks, 2 packages sundries, 13 cases cigars, 4 packages blackwoodware. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios. For Buenos Ayres:—1 package tea. For Manchester:—53 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—78 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—7 cases feathers, 1 package matting, 290 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Pera*, sailed on 24th Oct. For London:—2,125 bales hemp, 4 cases cigars, 9 cases chinaware, 242 bales canes, 274 half-chests tea (from Foochow), 101 cases preserves, 200 bales split bamboo, 220 rolls mats and matting, 670 boxes tea, 10 bales coir fibre. For London or Antwerp or Hamburg:—70 cases bristles. For Copenhagen:—13 cases cigars. For Antwerp:—17 packages merchandise. For Liverpool:—300 bales hemp. For Marseilles:—77 packages tea (from Foochow), 230 bales waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th October, 1905.—We have no material changes in the market to report. The tendency of rates, except in Marine Stocks, has, generally speaking, been towards weakness but variations have been small and there are no features of any interest to record.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week again improved to \$907½ and \$910 with small sales; later, however, chiefly in consequence of the continued rise in exchange, the demand ceased and the rate again fell to \$907½ at which the market closes with sellers. Nationals unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions with a small demand and no sellers have improved to \$755, with small buyers. Cantons remain steady at \$327½ with probable buyers and \$330 sellers ex the div. of \$20 paid on the 23rd inst. China Traders have been in a steady demand, and sales have been effected at \$87½ and \$88, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. North Chinas have been placed at Tls 91½ ex div. 7/6. Yangtszes unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires have been placed at \$89 closing steady. Hongkongs have ruled quiet with sellers at \$340.

SHIPPING.—Indos ruled firm during the early part of the week and a fair business was transacted at \$95; at the close, however, the market is weaker with sellers at that rate. Douglasses have been placed at \$31 and more are wanted at that rate. Shell Transports, with a rise in the home market to 23s. 6d., have been enquired for and the rate here has improved to 23s. 6d. with small sales at that. Star Ferries continue on offer at quotations, without sales.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have continued to be affected by the settlement due on the 30th which although a very small one has caused a gradual decline to \$223 without any business to speak of; market closes weak at that rate.

MINING.—No change or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady and without any change at \$180 with a few sales and close with buyers at that. Kowloon Wharves have been in demand at \$107½ without bringing any shares on the market, and close with buyers at \$108. Farnhams have further declined in Shanghai to Tls. 14½ with sellers and our market has followed suit. New Amoy Docks: no change or business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of a few sales of Humphreys' at \$13 we have no change or business to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of a fall in Ewos to Tls. 54, we have nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Laundries (old) have changed hands at \$8, China Providents at \$9, and Watkins at \$6½ and \$6.40; further than these we have no sales to report. Philippines have declined to \$6, and Watsons to \$14, both with sellers.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

QUOTATIONS.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$907½, sellers
		London, £92.10
National B. of China	£5	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11.75, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 54, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 44
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17½, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 140
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$180, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 190
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$27, sellers
		\$25, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$29½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½
Do. New	\$5	\$9½
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$147, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$14, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$330, sellers, x.d.
China Fire	\$2½	\$89, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
North China	£5	Tls. 91½, sale, x.d.
Union	\$100	\$755, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$172½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$126½, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$13, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub.	18.10	\$3½, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$6, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$223, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$31, sales & buy.
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26½, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$95, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	23s. 6d.
Do. Preference	\$10	£8. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$25, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$5½	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$7½
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$6½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$100

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., of Shanghai, in their Share Report for the week ending the 19th Oct., 1905, state:—The week's business has been marked by a slight decline in all our principal stocks, with the exception of S. and H. Wharves and Indo-Chinas, which remain steady. There has been no great quantity of business done. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/8½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. On the 12th shares changed hands at \$920 ex 71½. This was the top and a decline has taken place since. The nominal rate is \$915 sellers, but we think shares could be had at less. The latest London quotation is £93. Marine and Fire Insurances.—On the 12th China Traders were dealt in at \$83 ex 73, and the following day at \$82.50 ex 71½. North-Chinas.—A single transaction has taken place at Tls. 87.50. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Since our last report there has been a very trifling business done. On the 14th shares changed hands at Tls. 67 cash, and Tls. 67½ and 67 for October; Tls. 70 for January; nothing else has been reported. The

market is very dead. Shanghai Tugs.—There are sellers of ordinary shares at Tls. 57 and a few preference shares at Tls. 47.50. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. A slight decline has to be recorded. Business has been done during the week at T's. 9.50 and 9.72 for B.S. The London S. is on an average 25 cents less than the B.S. Weihaiwei Golds.—A few shares are to be had at \$8 with buyers at \$7. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Poyds. There has been a gradual decline in this stock since our last, a fair amount of business having been done. The cash rate remains about the same, namely: Tls. 144 to 145 for October settlement, but for forward delivery rates are not well maintained. On the 12th Tls. 148 for December could be obtained. On the 16th Tls. 147½ and 147 were done. At closing the market is weak at Tls. 146½. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—A few shares were offering at Tls. 185 for October at beginning of the week, and for December a good many shares changed hands at Tls. 191. The market strengthened and Tls. 186½ and 187½ were reported for October; for December Tls. 192½; March, Tls. 196, 197½ and 200. The market closes strong and shares are difficult to obtain at current rates. Sugars.—Peraks have been dealt in at Tls. 68 for October and Tls. 70 for December. No other business reported under this heading. Lands.—Shanghai Lands remain at Tls. 122. Hongkong Lands have been dealt in at \$128. Industrial.—Cottons. Laou Kung Mows remain at Tls. 60 for October. Ewos are firm at Tls. 55. China Flours have buyers at Tls. 85. Shanghai Gas have buyers at Tls. 123½. Shanghai Ice: A small lot changed hands at Tls. 22. Paper and Pulp at Tls. 144. Green Island Cements remain at \$29. Langkats: A fair business has been done during the week. The market opened at Tls. 245 for October, and the December rates at Tls. 252½ to Tls. 250. Shares became weaker shortly after the opening and a very gradual decline has taken place. Our closing rates are Tls. 237½ for cash and Tls. 145 for December. At these rates shares are enquired for. Shanghai Waterworks: A small order is in the market at Tls. 450. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have sellers at \$25. Weeks & Company changed hands at \$20. Astor House Hotel: A fair number of shares have been taken off the market at \$27 cash and for October. Miscellaneous.—Horse Bazaars have sellers at Tls. 75; no other business reported under this heading. Loan and Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent debentures have been dealt in at Tls. 105, and a few shares are offering at this figure.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., 6 per cent, were placed at Tls. 97. Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent: There are some shares offering at Tls. 99.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 30th October.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 2/0
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 248
Credits 4 months' sight 252

ON GERMANY.—On demand

..... 202

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 48
Credits, 60 days' sight 48½

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

..... 147
Bank, on demand 147½

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

..... 147
Bank, on demand 147½

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

..... 71½
Private, 30 days' sight 72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand

..... 6½

ON MANILA.—On demand

..... 8½ p.c. p.m.

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

..... 8½ p.c. p.m.

ON BATAVIA.—On demand

..... 11½

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

..... 1 p.c. p.m.

ON SAIGON.—On demand

..... 61½

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

..... 61½

SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

..... \$10.10

GOLD LEAF, 1'0 fine, per tael

..... \$53.10

BAR SILVER, per oz.

..... 28½

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tals 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

19, Shantung, British str., from Mourabaya.
 21, Brand, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 20, Brunhilde, German str., from Saigon.
 20, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Harzel Dollar, British str., from Moji.
 20, Hohnstein, German str., from Moji.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 20, Thyra, Norwegian str., from Kuchinotzu.
 21, Alston, British str., from Ke-lung.
 21, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Heghington, British str., from Newcastle.
 21, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
 21, Itola, British str., from Rangoon.
 21, Pocahontas, British str., from Mororan.
 21, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 21, Waterwitch, British str., from Swatow.
 22, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 22, Fausang, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 22, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 22, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, Hue, French str., from Kwangchauwan.
 22, Kensington, British str., from Salina Cruz.
 22, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Andalusia, German str., from Moji.
 23, Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 23, Courtfield, British str., from Bombay.
 23, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 23, Dundas, British str., from Moji.
 23, Indrani, British str., from New York.
 23, Glenfalloch, British str., from Java.
 23, Pera, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Shawmut American str., from Tacoma.
 23, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 23, Zoroaster, British str., from Moji.
 24, Benmohr, British str., from London.
 24, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 24, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 24, Den of Mains, British str., from Yokohama.
 24, Diomed, British str., from Yokohama.
 24, Folsjo, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 24, Gregory Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 24, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 24, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 24, Silesia, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 24, Zieten, German str., from Yokohama.
 25, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Elis, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 25, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 25, Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
 26, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
 26, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 26, Dakota, Amr. str., from Seattle.
 26, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., from Wuhu.
 26, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 27, Chihli, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Frithjof, Norw. str., from Coast Ports.
 27, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 27, Mercedes, British str., from Yokohama.
 28, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 28, Chunsang, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 28, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 28, Simongan, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 28, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 29, Chihli, British str., from Canton.
 29, Empire, British str., from Kobe.
 29, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
 29, Katanga, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 29, Manchuaia, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.
 29, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 October— DEPARTURES.
 19, Aldgate, British str., for Kuchinotzu.
 20, Arcadia, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 20, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
 20, Stettin, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Suisang, British str., for Saigon.
 20, Tolv, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 20, Trieste, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 21, Brunhilde, German str., for Vladivostock.
 21, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
 21, Elita Nossack, German str., for Tsintau.

21, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
 21, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Pakhoi.
 21, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Kweilin, British str., for Ningpo.
 21, Mazagon, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Petobaburi, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Quinta, German str., for Mauritius.
 21, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 21, Zafro, British str., for Manila.
 22, Brand, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 22, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 22, Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 22, Helene, German str., for Canton.
 22, Itola, British str., for Yokohama.
 22, Onsang, British str., for Samarang.
 23, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Alston, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Aataka, British str., for Foochow.
 24, Benlawers, British str., for London.
 24, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 24, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 24, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
 24, Pera, British str., for London.
 24, Phra Nang, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Shantung, British str., for Java.
 24, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.
 24, Solfond, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 24, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 24, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Zaida, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Benmohr, British str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 25, Diomed, British str., for London.
 25, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 25, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 25, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 25, Shawmut, American str., for Tacoma.
 25, Vorwaerts, German str., for Pakhoi.
 25, Wik, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Zieten, German str., for Europe.
 26, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 26, Den of Mains, British str., for London.
 26, Indrani, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 26, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 26, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 26, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Silesia, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 27, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
 27, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 28, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 28, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 28, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, C. F. L., German str., for Shanghai.
 28, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 29, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 29, Fausang, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 29, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 29, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 29, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Pocahontas, British str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. A. L. Stockhauser, F. Hunter, I. A. Santos, P. Xavier, J. Block, Mrs. A. Bell, Messrs. P. B. Shroff, J. Young, J. Adler, J. R. Smith, Ebrahim, Mr. and Mrs. F. Evans; for Singapore, Mr. A. Pennyruick, Miss Pennyruick, and Mr. A. E. Moir; for Colombo, Mr. Pilkington; for Bombay, Capt. W. Cotton; for Marseilles, Major F. H. Hotham, Messrs. J. Seellos, S. E. Sowhin and G. H. Koop; for London, Mrs. W. C. Wood and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton, Dr. Gillison, and Mr. Gascon Leu; from Kobe for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Adam; from Yokohama for Penang, Mr. A. Bell; for London, Mr. G. W. Wilson.

Per *Zieten*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mrs. M. C. Brooks, Mrs. Farrington, Mr. and Mrs. Meier, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Chak, Mr. and Mrs. B. Tidy; from Nagasaki, Mrs. M. Maycock; from Shanghai, Miss A. Urbanek, Messrs. M. Urbanek, Silberman, H. Bollmann, Jeben,

Ch. Bryan, G. E. Tucker, Strickforth, Mr. and Mrs. Hussan, Miss King, Mr. C. B. Smith, Mrs. Linnot, Mr. Mosser, Mrs. Armstrong, Messrs. M. Agostini, Meerbach and Chas. Putton.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Miss H. Connell, Dr. Ferguson, Miss J. Kinney, Messrs. S. Hancock, A. W. Nical, Mrs. Kadoorie and 2 children, Miss Steele, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Owen; from Yokohama, Mrs. A. R. Parker, Mr. de Gast, Mrs. Borthwick and child, Mr. J. Arnold, Dr. and Mrs. Currie; from Kobe, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Aitken; from Shanghai, Messrs. A. Mackenzie, C. Yencorich, C. G. Valls, G. Boolsen, R. H. Van Sant, S. Nissein, Capt. Lundholm, and Rev. J. Lake.

Per *Dakota*, from Seattle, &c., Messrs. F. S. Ayers, A. R. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bard and child, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Bean, Miss K. Brennan, Miss Ruby Brooks, Mrs. A. T. Baxter; Messrs. R. C. Bamjee, Z. C. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Carson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Case and child, Mr. Herman Danz, Father Garaix, Mr. Wm. Gomez, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Dr. M. Herzog, Rev. and Mrs. L. B. Hillis, Mr. H. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Helvie, Mr. F. H. Hillman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard James, Miss Helen James, Mrs. H. E. James, Messrs. Philip James, W. E. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Lee and 3 children, Messrs. Ed. Levy, Louis Levy, Miss Bell Meyers, Mrs. McAlpine, Mr. and Mrs. L. McCornick, Mrs. M. D. Owings, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Owings and child, Misses Martha O'Connor and P. P. Rand, Mr. M. E. Shauck, Mrs. O. V. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Thurston, Mr. N. Vestal, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Van Buren, Miss K. Williamson, Messrs. W. Wilson, E. J. Webster, H. J. Whatmore, Mrs. C. H. Willard and 2 children, Dr. R. K. Cole, Mr. Yew C. Lee, Mrs. Belle Nelis, Mrs. C. Zimmer, and Mrs. Newell Wilson and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Chusan*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Weetlake; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morgan and family; for Bombay, Messrs. P. A. Cunningham, Rustom Framna, R. W. F. Jasawala, and Corporal Chew; for Marseilles, Messrs. D. McDonald and Schmah; for London, Mrs. Logan and 3 children, Messrs. W. E. Milne, E. Morley and P. McCann.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, for Yokohama, Messrs. P. Silva and D. T. Wong, Mr. and Mrs. Weng.

Per *Zieten*, for Bremen, &c., Mr. Chr. Andersen, Rev. Bacigalupo, Sir and Lady Hicks Beach, Misses Hicks Beach (2), Dr. and Mrs. S. Y. Bergsma, Mr. G. S. W. Bidwell, Mrs. and Miss Block, Mr. J. W. Bly and child, Mrs. Bouricius and children, Mr. V. Brattzow, Dr. and Mrs. Praun, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Corick, Lord and Lady Robert Cecil, Mr. Angelo Cappel, Rev. Calorio, Mr. Harry Crabtree, Miss Mary S. Davidson, Miss Dickinson, Consul General and Mrs. Espino, Miss E. M. Estey, Rev. and Miss Evans, Miss Fraser, Messrs. P. Goldmacher, J. Glendinning, Mr. and Mrs. Grundy and daughter, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hartland, Messrs. S. Hatanaka, S. B. Hatfield, G. M. Havice, A. E. van den Heuvel, Miss Higgins, Mrs. C. Huygen, Messrs. F. Ingermann, K. Jamanouchi, K. Jawada, H. Kasahara, Chas. Keding, Rev. Kampmann, Mr. Kammerer, Mrs. Keeley, Messrs. F. Klein, Koger, Dr. and Mrs. Krummacher and son, Mr. John V. Lady, Capt. Larsen, Rev. T. A. Lerd, Mr. N. Lochwitzky de Scalon, Miss H. Luther, Mrs. Maximoff, Messrs. U. M. Melita, M. Mess, Mettegang, Mitsui, Wm. R. Molden, A. Motoji, A. A. Muller, J. Murmazu, Mr. and Mrs. Nakamaru and child, Mr. N. Okano, Capt. Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Owens, Miss Owens, Mrs. Pitzschke, Mr. and Mrs. Prest and daughter, Lieut. Prinz, Mr. Schulze, Lieut. Schulze, Mr. L. H. Shadden, Mrs. Scaife, Mrs. Skoe'd and children, Messrs. W. R. Stang, Staring, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and children, Messrs. Th. Stibbe, Walter F. Stutz, A. L. Sutton, M. Urbanek, Miss A. Urbanek, Messrs. T. Uyeda, A. de Velter, Miss Emma Witt, Mr. Woo's, Rev. and Mrs. Woseley and children.

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